



Mike Wren/New York State Department of Health

Some of the cannabis-containing vaping products contain high levels of vitamin E acetate. Vitamin E acetate is a key focus of the investigation of potential causes of vaping-associated pulmonary illnesses.

# Probe of vaping illnesses focuses on THC from pot

By MICHAEL STOBBE  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — U.S. health officials said Friday that their investigation into an outbreak of severe vaping-related illnesses is increasingly focused on products that contain the marijuana compound THC.

Most of the 800 people who got sick vaped THC, the ingredient in marijuana that causes a high, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But officials said they didn't know if the THC is the problem or some other substance added to the vaping liquid, such as thickeners.

"The outbreak currently is pointing to a greater concern around THC-containing products," said the CDC's Dr. Anne Schuchat.

So far, investigators have not identified a particular e-cigarette, vaping device, liquid or ingredient behind the outbreak. But officials say patients have mentioned the name Dank Vapes most frequently. Many of the people who got sick in Illinois and Wisconsin said they used prefilled THC cartridges sold in Dank Vapes packaging.

"It's a generic product name that doesn't really tie back to one store or one distributor," said Dr. Jennifer Layden, chief medical officer for the Illinois Department of Public Health.

"Folks are getting it from friends or folks on the street, with no understanding of where it came from prior to that," she said.

Until a cause is pinned down, the CDC continues to advise Americans to consider avoiding all vaping products, though the agency on Friday added the phrase "particularly those containing THC."

"We didn't feel comfortable dropping the broader recommendation yet," said Schuchat.

This week, the CDC reported 805 confirmed and probable cases of the lung illness. Thirteen people have died, including two in Oregon. Only the U.S. has reported such an outbreak, although Canadian officials this week confirmed that country's first case.

On Friday, the agency provided more details in two reports:

- The first case in the U.S. began in late March. Cases ramped up in late June and rose dramatically in late July.
- Median age for the illnesses is 23. But the median age of those who died is much older — 50.
- Nationally, 9 in 10 cases required hospitalization. Many young and previously healthy adolescents and young adults needed machines to help them breathe.
- In Illinois and Wisconsin, patients men-

tioned 87 different product names and many vaped more than one.

Doctors say the illnesses resemble an inhalation injury. Symptoms have included shortness of breath, fatigue, chest pain, diarrhea and vomiting.

Officials continue to find a substantial number of U.S. patients — the new report says 16% — who said they vaped only nicotine, and not THC. But the report noted that in Wisconsin, five patients who initially denied using products with THC turned out to have used them.

The most illnesses have occurred in California, Illinois, Texas and Wisconsin.

In Oregon, Gov. Kate Brown is advising Oregonians to stop vaping immediately after the state's health authority announced a second vaping-related death Thursday.

Brown said she has sought advice from the Oregon Department of Justice on legal remedies, possibly including a temporary ban on all vaping products. Brown called the death a tragedy and "absolutely unacceptable."

The governor has also asked the Oregon Health Authority to make recommendations on how "to protect Oregonians and public health."

The health authority has, so far, identified five reports of severe lung injuries that it's linked to a national outbreak of vaping-related illness. All five individuals had vaped or used e-cigarettes, and were hospitalized after experiencing respiratory issues, resulting in shortness of breath, coughing or chest pain.

Two of the cases resulted in a death, with the first fatality announced on Sept. 3. The other three individuals are "recovering," according to state health officer Dean Sidelinger.

Sidelinger said the most recent death followed the same pattern as past cases: an adult, who experienced severe respiratory injuries after vaping cannabis products purchased from a licensed retailer. The individual was in the hospital for several weeks before succumbing to their injuries, according to Sidelinger. The authority is not releasing the person's gender, age or location.

At a press conference Thursday announcing the latest death, health officials were adamant: No one in Oregon should still be vaping.

"No level of vaping is safe," Sidelinger said. "With these acute respiratory injuries and deaths, we do urge all individuals to stop vaping, whether that's nicotine-based products, cannabis products or other products."

Rebecca Ellis of Oregon Public Broadcasting contributed to this report.

**'WE DO URGE ALL INDIVIDUALS TO STOP VAPING, WHETHER THAT'S NICOTINE-BASED PRODUCTS, CANNABIS PRODUCTS OR OTHER PRODUCTS.'**

Dean Sidelinger | state health officer

## OBITUARIES

### Elnora 'Keni' Hertig

Seaside

Aug. 23, 1932 — Sept. 13, 2019

Elnora Faye Hertig, known as "Keni" to all, passed away on Friday, Sept. 13, under a full harvest moon.

She was born to Bessie and Frank Kennedy in Hillsboro, Oregon, on Aug. 23, 1932. She was the youngest of six children, and was preceded in death by all of her siblings.

Her father passed away while she was a young girl, and her mother supported the family, working in the shipyards of Portland at night, after working as a nurse during the day.

Once Keni met Carl Hertig, she was smitten. They married on Feb. 23, 1952. There were truly the loves of each other's lives.

They began their life together in Seaside, establishing a business, Reed & Hertig, raising their two children, creating friendships that endured a lifetime. In later years, they enjoyed the desert, their incredible ocean view and world travel with family and friends.

After Carl's sudden passing in 1997, Keni displayed strength and courage as she soldiered on. She involved herself in her

community, duplicate bridge, exploring the Oregon wine country and hosting tables at various fundraising events.

Keni was known by all to be generous to her family, friends, local organizations and countless others. She was also a sports fan, a kind and lovely person with elegance and style. She was lots of fun, and had a great sense of humor. Keni lived a great life, and never forgot how fortunate she was.

She is survived by her daughter, Kelly (Wayne), son, Kevin (Katie), and her grandchildren, Kelsey and Karl.

Her family would like to thank her loving and dedicated caregivers, and Lower Columbia Hospice, who enabled Keni to remain in her home until her passing.

In Keni's memory, play a good bridge hand, enjoy lunch with a friend, marvel at the clouds, savor each sunset, share fond memories, tip extravagantly and make a contribution to your favorite charity.

At her request, no service will be held. A celebration of life will be scheduled for a later date.



Elnora Hertig

### Delwin B. Mikkeltorg

Guinda, California

Sept. 12, 1955 — July 27, 2019

Delwin B. Mikkeltorg passed away on July 27 while at his home in Guinda, California. He was born on Sept. 12, 1955, in Burlington, Washington. The family would like to invite all who knew him to a gathering of remembrance.

Put on your jeans and best T-shirt and meet with us on Saturday, Oct. 5, at the Palmer



Delwin Mikkeltorg

Creek Community Center, 606 Fourth St., Dayton, Oregon. We will start at 2 p.m.

Coffee and cake will be served while swapping "Delwin stories," and maybe renewing old friendships. We know not everyone who knew Delwin is on Facebook, including Delwin himself, so please spread the word to those you know.

## OBITUARY POLICY

The Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

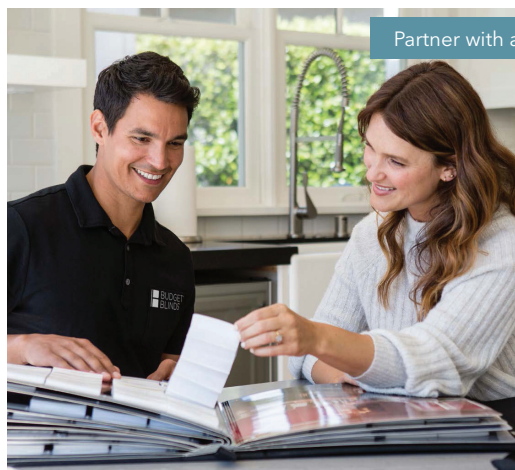
Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at [DailyAstorian.com/forms/obits](http://DailyAstorian.com/forms/obits), by email at [ewilson@dailyastorian.com](mailto:ewilson@dailyastorian.com), placed via the funeral home or in person at The Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria.

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## SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
61 43	59 40	60 41	62 45	61 47	60 47	60 48
Mostly cloudy	Clouds and sunshine	Sunny to partly cloudy	Mostly sunny	Cloudy	Chance of a shower	Showers possible

## ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday

**Temperatures**

High/low ..... 64/54  
Normal high/low ..... 66/48  
Record high ..... 85 in 1967  
Record low ..... 38 in 1908

**Precipitation**

Thursday ..... 0.31"  
Month to date ..... 6.01"  
Normal month to date ..... 1.75"  
Year to date ..... 31.67"  
Normal year to date ..... 39.85"

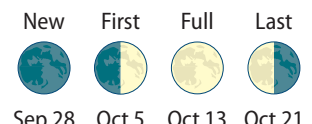
Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2019

## UNDER THE SKY

**Tonight's Sky:** Albireo, which represents the head of Cygnus, the Swan.

## SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today ..... 7:10 a.m.  
Sunset tonight ..... 7:02 p.m.  
Moonrise today ..... 6:48 a.m.  
Moonset tonight ..... 7:32 p.m.



## TODAY'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
	1:07 a.m.	8.4	7:42 a.m.	-0.9
	1:47 p.m.	8.3	8:04 p.m.	-0.3
<b>Cape Disappointment</b>	12:41 a.m.	8.1	6:47 a.m.	-1.2
	1:21 p.m.	8.0	7:09 p.m.	-0.5
<b>Hammond</b>	12:53 a.m.	8.8	7:09 a.m.	-1.1
	1:33 p.m.	8.6	7:31 p.m.	-0.4
<b>Warrenton</b>	1:02 a.m.	8.8	7:26 a.m.	-0.8
	1:42 p.m.	8.6	7:48 p.m.	-0.2
<b>Knappa</b>	1:44 a.m.	8.6	8:43 a.m.	-0.8
	2:24 p.m.	8.5	9:05 p.m.	-0.3
<b>Depoe Bay</b>	12:33 p.m.	8.8	6:16 a.m.	-0.9
	none		6:39 p.m.	0.0

## NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Sun.
Atlanta	93/72/pc	95/74/s
Boston	80/62/pc	71/55/s
Chicago	64/58/t	74/66/c
Dallas	94/76/t	94/73/pc
Denver	77/57/s	87/52/s
Honolulu	88/76/pc	86/76/pc
Houston	90/78/t	90/75/pc
Los Angeles	72/57/sh	74/56/pc
Miami	91/79/pc	89/79/pc
New York City	82/69/pc	78/61/s
Phoenix	91/69/s	87/66/s
San Francisco	70/55/pc	69/54/s
Wash., DC	93/72/pc	87/66/pc

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## REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

City	Today	Sun.	City	Today	Sun.
Seattle	59/46		Wenatchee	45/37	
Tacoma	59/36		Moses Lake	49/40	
Olympia	59/38		Yakima	51/34	
Longview	57/41		Kennewick	57/42	
Astoria	61/43		Walla Walla	56/37	
Portland	60/45		Lewiston	53/39	
Salem	59/41		Enterprise	46/30	
Corvallis	59/40		Albany	53/36	
Eugene	60/40		La Grande	51/33	
Bend	48/31		John Day	49/34	
Medford	57/42		Ontario	62/38	
Klamath Falls	49/28		Burns	51/24	
			Caldwell	58/36	