

Probe of vaping illnesses focuses on THC from marijuana

By **MICHAEL STOBBE**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — U.S. health officials said Friday, Sept. 27, 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



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.

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 hospitaliza-

tion. Many young and previously healthy adolescents and young adults needed machines to help them breathe.

— In Illinois and Wisconsin, patients mentioned 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.

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.

FIRST RESPONDER/PUBLIC SAFETY LOGS



Sept. 20
9:04 a.m., 1900 block N. Holladay: A minor in possession of tobacco products is cited.

3:14 p.m., Bus stop, Roosevelt: A person reported sleeping in the bus stop is advised to move along.

3:26 p.m., Rite Aid parking: A person reported sleeping behind Rite Aid is advised to move along.

Sept. 21
1:34 a.m., Avenue U: A disturbance is reported.

9:01 a.m., N. Wahanna: A person is arrested on a warrant.

Sept. 22
2:30 p.m., 12th and Roosevelt: Police assist removing a disabled vehicle from the roadway.

5:03 p.m., Highway 26 and Wapiti Lane: Police respond to a motor vehicle accident involving multiple vehicles.

Sept. 23
4:54 a.m., 1100 block Broadway: Sunset Pool employee requests escort into the building; caller said a group of transients gathered on the sidewalk were making them uncomfortable; escort was provided and transients advised to move along.

2:58 p.m., 2300 block S. Roosevelt: Hospital staff reports dog bite victim. Victim refused to talk to officer.

5:40 p.m., Seaside area: Sex crimes are reported.

Sept. 24
5:54 p.m., East End Avenue B: Caller reports group of four transients headed to known transient camp along Neawanna Creek; police contact transients and advise them of ordinances. Subjects left the area.

10:56 p.m., Highway 101: A subject is arrested on a warrant.

Sept. 25
2:47 a.m., Avenue E and Lincoln: Subjects are warned of unlawful lodging.

7:45 a.m., N. Holladay: Subjects are warned of unlawful lodging.

4:01 p.m., Avenue U and the Beach: Found keys are turned in to the police department.

6:04 p.m., Avenue T and the Prom: Subjects drinking alcohol in public are warned of the violation.

Sept. 26
8:09 a.m., 600 block S. Holladay: Police respond to a report of an altercation between two transients. Upon contact, they agree to quiet down.

8:10 a.m., 1500 block Beach Drive: Property crimes are reported.

Sept. 27
12:22 a.m., 12th and Prom: A person is arrested on a warrant.

11:54 p.m., Avenue S and Wahanna: Subjects are warned of unlawful lodging.



Sept. 20
6:11 p.m., 1900 block Spruce Drive: Emergency medical response.

7:10 Whaler's Point: Fire investigation.

Sept. 21
10:37 a.m. 2600 block Highway 101: Emergency medical response.

3:42 p.m., 300 block Fourth Avenue: Emergency medical response.

11:14 p.m., 900 block S. Columbia: Emergency medical response. Medix on scene.

Sept. 22
2:42 p.m., Highway 26, MP6: Motor vehicle accident.

10:30 a.m., 600 block S. Columbia: Emergency medical response.

Sept. 23
7:10 p.m., The Cove: Emergency medical response.

Sept. 25
8:38 a.m., Second and Ocean Shore: Emergency medical response. Medix and fire department on scene.

7:22 p.m., 300 block Fifth Avenue: Police assist Medix on a call.

10:42 p.m., 1100 block Avenue B: Emergency medical response.

Sept. 26
1:16 p.m., 400 block S. Roosevelt: Emergency medical response.

3:40 p.m., Avenue U: Emergency medical response.

4:55 p.m. Avenue S and Roosevelt: Emergency medical response; assist other agency.

Sept. 27
1:06 p.m. 400 block S. Edgewood: Emergency medical response.

2:01 p.m., 2400 block Queen Street: Emergency medical response.

3:47 p.m., 900 block Avenue K: Emergency medical response.

5:00 p.m., 34000 block Highway 26: Fire investigation.

10:43 p.m., 300 block Broadway: Emergency medical response; assist other agency.



Troopers respond to domestic disturbance
On Friday, Sept. 27, at 3:17 p.m., Oregon State police responded to a residence on Highway 26 and Raghorn Road in Seaside in response to a domestic disturbance. Police say residents of the home became involved in a physical altercation; one of the family members, a 76-year-old male, has mental health issues. Clatsop County Elder Services was

contacted to help relocating that person. There were no arrests, but peace was restored until alternative arrangements could be made.

Subjects warned for clamming during closed season
On Saturday, Sept. 28, at 7:29 a.m. on the Seaside

beach, troopers responded to multiple reports of persons clamming during closed season. Police say quite a few people were unhappy with law enforcement for the regulation.

Man charged with DUII
On Sunday, Sept. 29, at 3:23 p.m., Douglas Alan Portin, 65, was arrested and charged with DUII-Alcohol on Highway

26, MP 10. Oregon State police pulled the vehicle over; investigation indicated the driver appeared impaired. Portin was transported to the Seaside police station where his blood alcohol content was measured at .09%. As his passenger also appeared to be impaired, the vehicle was towed by Classic Towing and the passenger was given a courtesy lift.

THE KIDS ARE LOOKING FOR YOU – BE A CASA!



CASA VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Learn how you can be trained in just a month to make a difference in the life of a child in foster care

In-person and online training are combined for all learning styles

Classes are free to everyone

October 9th – November 13th

We need volunteers more than ever to advocate for children in foster care. A Court Appointed Special Advocate is a community volunteer who advocates for a child who has been abused or neglected. CASA volunteers work hard to ensure that children in foster care in Clatsop County will have a safe and nurturing permanent home as soon as possible. Join us and make a difference.



Clatsop CASA Program complies with applicable federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or age. Clatsop CASA Program operates its program, services and activities in compliance with federal nondiscrimination laws.

CLASSES AT CLATSOP COMMUNITY COLLEGE
South County Campus

Contact us at 503-338-6063
casa@clatsopcasa.org
www.clatsopcasa.org

SAVE THE DATE!

Seaside Kids Inc.

Annual Pancake Feed

& sausage

We all love Breakfast for Dinner!

Tuesday, October 15th
5pm-7pm

Seaside Convention Center
415 1st Ave • Seaside

Adults: \$7
Kids under 12: \$5
Family: \$20

Proceeds from the event will benefit the kids in our community

