



February 8, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The advent of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), vapor products or “vaping,” has created new concerns for our community and school districts. According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, more than 2 million middle and high school students were using e-cigarettes in 2016. It also estimated that in 2016 approximately 11% of high school students and 4.3% of middle school students were using these products.

As shown by the graph on the next page, from the U.S.F.D.A., ENDS vapor products range widely in appearance. Regardless of exterior appearance or design, this type of product uses an “e-liquid” that may or may not contain nicotine, as well as flavorings. “Vapes” are composed of a liquid cartridge, an atomizer, and a rechargeable battery. The liquid cartridge is the flavored part of the device used to create the vapor; it is also the part of the device that typically contains nicotine. The atomizer heats the device when the user inhales and is charged by the battery.

We are concerned about the use of vapor products at HUHS and are asking for your partnership in keeping these products out of HUHS. We are concerned about the illegality of underage vaping, as well as the potential long-term health risks. Some students may already be so addicted to the nicotine in the “juice” that they risk getting caught, sometimes to the point of needing to vape while in class and hiding the vapor by blowing it into backpacks. Others leave class frequently to do so, or they vape on school buses.

HUHS will be increasing disciplinary action for vaping and/or possession of any vaping paraphernalia (mouthpiece, heating element, battery, juice, etc.) to a minimum of one (1) day for the first offense with progressive discipline for subsequent offenses. The school will turn over any vaping items to the Hartford Police, and students may receive a police citation for vaping and/or be in possession of vaping devices.

We don’t want our students to risk their health, miss school due to suspension for vaping, and/or violate the law. We are asking for your help. Please take time to speak with your child(ren) about this. Below are three helpful resources that you can use to talk to your child(ren) about vaping. The first is the Surgeon General’s 2016 report on e-cigarette (vaping) use. The second is a fact sheet and parent tip sheet. The third is an article on a new vaping device that is hard to detect and that students are using in school. (The next page also has information about it.)

https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/sgr/e-cigarettes/index.htm

https://www.bedfordma.gov/sites/bedfordma/files/file/file/nida-ecig_infographic2016.pdf

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2017/12/04/568273801/teenagers-embrace-juul-saving-its-discreet-enough-to-vape-in-class>

We appreciate you supporting school policies and rules to help maintain an orderly, productive learning environment and in helping us keep our students safe. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Scott Otto, Dean of Students (EMAIL: scott.otto@huhs.org or TEL: 262-670-3200).

Sincerely,

Scott Otto
Dean of Students

Vaping or ENDS Vapor Products



One common vapor product is called a “Juul.” It looks like a flash drive or, when plugged into a computer, a wireless router. It is small and easy to conceal, and can easily be concealed in pens, markers, and highlighters. The vaping juice, “Juulpod,” contains the same amount of nicotine as a pack of cigarettes.

