



County of Sacramento

CANNABIS VAPING HEALTH ADVISORY

August 20, 2019

Situational Update

There have been 20 cases of severe acute pulmonary disease requiring hospitalization and respiratory support among previously healthy adults reported in multiple California Counties since June, including one case in Sacramento County. Eight of these patients were admitted to the intensive care unit and six required intubation with mechanical ventilation. Nationwide, a total of 99 cases have been reported in 15 States. A common exposure among these patients is vaping cannabis or cannabidiol (CBD) oils. Case patients failed to respond to an initial course of antibiotic treatment but improved with systemic steroids. Evaluation for infectious pathologies has been negative to date. Please see actions requested of clinicians at this time below.

Actions Requested of All Clinicians

1. **Remain** alert for potential cases among persons presenting with severe acute pulmonary symptoms including but not limited to pneumonitis and acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). Some patients have preceding fevers and gastrointestinal symptoms.
2. **Inquire** about recent history of vaping and use of cannabis or CBD oils.
3. **Report** all patients presenting with severe acute pulmonary disease who have used cannabis or CBD oil to Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) immediately via phone call (916) 875-5881 AND electronically via CalREDIE or confidential fax (916) 854-9709.

For more information, please call SCPH Disease Control Program at (919) 875-5881 Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Olivia Kasirye MD".

Olivia Kasirye, MD, MS
Public Health Officer