

E-cigarettes are not yet fully regulated for health and safety.

E-Cigarettes and Vaporizing

PROBLEM: E-cigarettes are not risk-free and they contribute to smoking and vaping by youth.

- **Increase in Youth and Young Adult Use:** The number of middle and high school youth who currently use electronic smoking devices tripled from 2013 to 2014.¹ In 2012, 54% of 18-24 year olds in Colorado who smoke use both e-cigarettes and regular cigarettes. This reflects heavier nicotine use and shows evidence of difficulties quitting.² Exposure to nicotine can harm adolescent brain development and can be toxic to fetuses³.
- **Undermines Smoke-Free Policies:** E-cigarettes do not emit a “harmless vapor;” passive vaporizing can expose people to nicotine and other chemicals.⁴
- **Poison Risk:** The high concentration of nicotine in refill containers, equivalent to anywhere from 2—9 packs of cigarettes, is a poisoning risk, especially for children or pets.⁵ E-Liquid, used to fill vaporizing devices, contains toxic levels of nicotine, resulting in increased calls to Rocky Mountain Poison Control.⁶
- **Flavored to Attract Youth:** E-liquids and hookah pens come in a variety of flavors that appeal to kids; from bubble gum and fruit punch to vanilla and coffee.
- **Masks Marijuana Use:** Marijuana vaporizers can look and operate similar to nicotine vaporizers. Manufacturers promote their ability to hide the odor of marijuana and ability to deliver very potent forms of marijuana. Some e-cigarettes can be retrofitted to vaporize marijuana.⁷
- **Not Fully Regulated:** Nicotine vaporizers are not yet fully regulated for health and safety, so the contents in each product and the effects of vaporizing the chemicals are not completely known. Tests of different nicotine vaporizers have turned up poisonous or cancer-causing chemicals like formaldehyde and lead.⁸



PROVEN APPROACHES: Some local governments have taken the opportunity to protect citizens from the potential harms of vaporizing by regulating e-cigarettes the same way that cigarettes and other tobacco products are currently regulated: by adding vaporizing in their existing smoke-free policies and regulating how e-cigarettes can be sold.⁹

WHAT ACTIONS HAVE COLORADO COMMUNITIES TAKEN?

- ⇒ Edgewater, 2014: Amended smoke-free ordinance to prohibit e-cigarette use and use of other vaporizing devices wherever smoking is prohibited.¹⁰
- ⇒ Golden, 2012, 2014: Required tobacco retailers to have a license; 2014 ordinance expanded smoke-free places and prohibits e-cigarette and other vaporizer use where smoking is prohibited.
- ⇒ Lakewood, 2014: Amended smoke-free law to prohibit use of e-cigarettes and other vaporizing devices where smoking is prohibited.
- ⇒ Fort Collins, Brighton, Louisville, 2014: All amended their local smoke-free laws to prohibit the use of electronic cigarettes and other vaporizers wherever smoking is prohibited.
- ⇒ Greeley, 2015: Amended smoke-free law to prohibit use of e-cigarettes and other vaporizing devices where smoking is prohibited.
- ⇒ Arvada, 2015: Expanded the smoke-free law and prohibited the use of e-cigarettes and other vaporizing devices in all outdoor and most indoor public places where smoking is prohibited.
- ⇒ Wheat Ridge, 2015: Expanded the smoke-free law and added the prohibition of e-cigarettes and other vaporizing devices in places that are smoke-free.



For more information, call (303) 275-7555, email tobaccofree@jeffco.us, or visit our website at www.TobaccoFreeJeffco.com



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