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Press Release

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Public Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT WARNS OF E-CIGARETTE RISKS AND YOUTH

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 2.5 million youth, or about 1 in 10, reported using e-cigarettes in 2022. Of those reporting use, 14.1% were in high school and 3.3% were in middle school. E-cigarettes come in various flavors such as fruit, candy, mint, and menthol. Although e-cigarette use (also known as "vaping") may seem harmless, what is being inhaled can potentially be harmful.

E-cigarettes work by heating a liquid into an aerosol which is inhaled into the lungs. The aerosol, although not harmful in itself, usually contains nicotine. Aerosols can also contain flavoring that has been linked to lung disease, volatile organic compounds, cancer-causing chemicals, and heavy metals such as nickel, tin, and lead. When the user exhales the aerosols, bystanders are also at risk for inhaling the aerosols.

Nicotine, which is also found in tobacco products, is highly addictive and can harm brain development up until the mid-20s. For adolescents, the potential harm to the brain can impact learning, memory, and attention. In addition, evidence suggests young people who use ecigarettes may be more likely to smoke cigarettes at an older age and are at greater risk for future addiction to other drugs.

The Logan County Department of Public Health urges parents and caregivers to play an important role in protecting children from e-cigarettes. First, talk to your child or teen about the risk and harm presented by using e-cigarettes. Secondly, be a good role model by setting the example of not using tobacco. For more information regarding e-cigarettes and the risks of

vaping for young people, visit https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/index.htm. For more information regarding services offered at Logan County Department of Public Health, visit their website at WWW.LCDPH.ORG or call 217-735-2317.

Information Source: CDC

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