

A Joint Message From . . .



Engage. Inspire. Prepare.



PAULDING COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
GARY CULLEDGE, SHERIFF

May 3, 2019

Dear Paulding County Parents,

As we wrap up what has been another terrific and highly successful school year for the Paulding County School District, there is still one issue that needs our attention and, unfortunately, it has reached urgent status. The issue of student vaping has become an epidemic in our schools and addressing it will require a full community commitment. That is why the Paulding County School District, the Paulding County Board of Commissioners, and the Paulding County Sheriff's Office want to enlist you, the parents, to join us in tackling this threat to student health and well-being.

This year saw the popularity of electronic smoking devices, called vapes or e-cigarettes, skyrocket. The presence of the easy-to-hide vape devices is widespread in all five of our high schools. Students hide them in their pockets and their bookbags, among other places, and they smoke before and after school and between classes. Vapes are also prevalent in our middle schools, and most concerning is that we have even seen cases of *elementary school students* using vape devices. Other school districts are reporting the same phenomenon. The devices are ubiquitous, and student vaping has become a SIGNIFICANT issue for our administrators and school resource officers to deal with on a daily basis.

Students vape everything from flavored nicotine to extremely potent liquid THC, the same psychoactive ingredient found in marijuana. They smoke these substances, which are easy to obtain, through battery-powered, pen-shaped devices that quickly heat the liquid to a potent aerosol. Many vapes are intentionally designed to look very similar to computer USB sticks.

There are a few points we would like to make about this relatively new phenomenon:

- 1) It is illegal for students under the age of 18 to use vaping devices or to purchase vaping materials. Students who break the law risk serious consequences.
- 2) It is against school district policy for students to vape, or for them to even bring the devices or materials to school. Students who violate school district policy are subject to significant disciplinary consequences.
- 3) Because it is a relatively new phenomenon, we do not yet fully understand the long-term health effects of vaping, but we do know it is **not** a safe substitute for smoking cigarettes. Already this school year we have seen several students transported to the hospital in the middle of school day because of vaping, which can result in unconsciousness and seriously affect breathing. Inhaling vaporized THC can seriously impair a student's mental and motor functions.

The issue of youth vaping is a serious one that goes beyond our schools. We need your help to stem the spread of this trend and prevent the possibility of students harming themselves. The Sheriff's Office and our schools are

Paulding County School District
3236 Atlanta Highway | Dallas, GA 30132
www.paulding.k12.ga.us
(770) 443-8000

Paulding County Board of Commissioners
240 Constitution Boulevard | Dallas, GA 30132
www.paulding.gov/101/Board-of-Commissioners
(770) 443-7550

Paulding County Sheriff's Office
247 Industrial Way North. | Dallas, GA 30132
www.paulding.gov/sheriff
770-443-3010



being as proactive as possible to address the issue, including conducting a series of Alcohol & Drug Awareness Programs hosted by the Paulding County Commissioners and Superior Court and held at schools throughout the school year. These programs have been very successful in educating students, but the effort that will have the most impact begins at home. Have you talked to your child about vaping? If not, we would strongly encourage you to do so. We know that broaching this topic may not be easy, so we have included some resources below to help educate you about e-cigarettes and vaping, and to help you talk to your students.

Together, we as a community can make a difference to improve the lives our children. Thank you for your support.

Resources for parents on e-cigarettes and vaping:

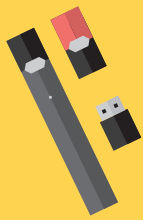
- **Informational E-Cigarette Fact Sheet:** (Attached)
- **Tobacco, Vaping and Marijuana: A Parent's Guide to a New Epidemic (YouTube video):**
<https://youtu.be/SEz7rvY9IjE>
- **Quick Facts on the Risks of E-cigarettes for Kids, Teens, and Young Adults:**
https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/Quick-Facts-on-the-Risks-of-E-cigarettes-for-Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults.html
- **Tip sheet for talking with your teen about e-cigarettes:** (Download)
https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/SGR_ECig_ParentTipSheet_508.pdf
- **For teens who want to quit:**
<https://teen.smokefree.gov/>
- **More resources:** <https://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/preventionintervention>

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian Otott
Superintendent

Dave Carmichael
Chairman, Board of Commissioners

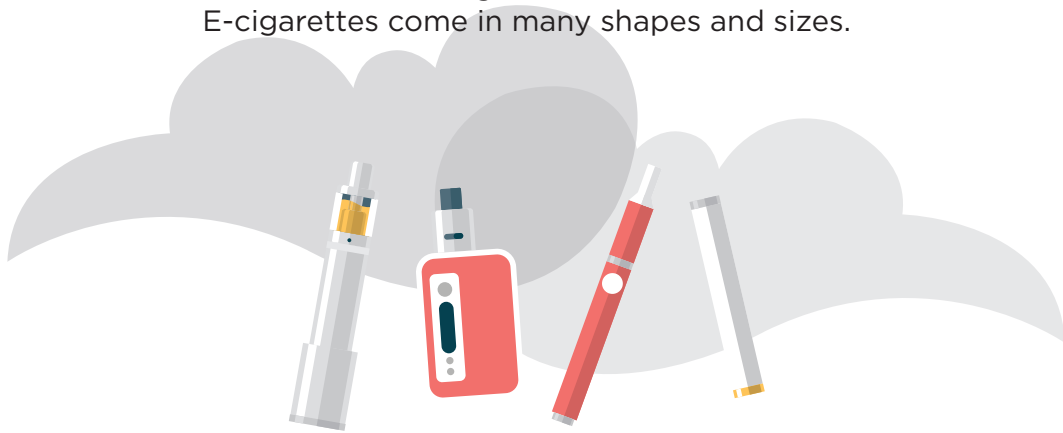
Gary G. Gledge
Sheriff



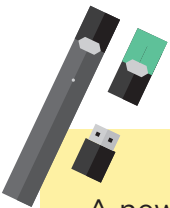
E-CIGARETTES SHAPED LIKE USB FLASH DRIVES: INFORMATION FOR PARENTS, EDUCATORS, AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS



Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) are battery-powered devices that can deliver nicotine and flavorings to the user in the form of an aerosol. E-cigarettes come in many shapes and sizes.



WHAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE?



A new e-cigarette shaped like a **USB** flash drive is being used by students in schools.



Nicotine is highly addictive and can **harm brain development**, which continues until about age 25.



The use of any tobacco product — including e-cigarettes—is **unsafe** for young people.



Parents, educators, & health care providers can help prevent and reduce the use of all tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, by young people.

>> **Learn HOW** in this fact sheet.

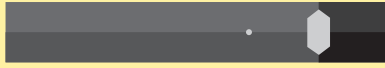
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U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

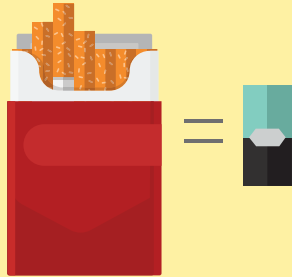
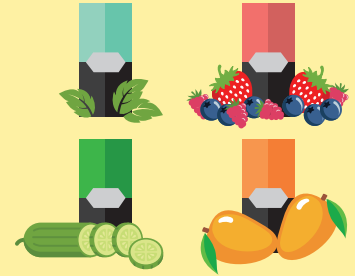
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AN INCREASINGLY POPULAR E-CIGARETTE DEVICE, CALLED JUUL, IS SHAPED LIKE A USB FLASH DRIVE.



Use of JUUL is sometimes called “JUULing.”

JUUL’s nicotine liquid refills are called “pods.” JUUL is available in several flavors such as Cool Cucumber, Fruit Medley, Mango, and Mint.



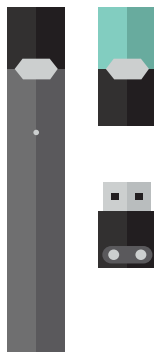
All JUUL e-cigarettes have a high level of nicotine. According to the manufacturer, a single JUUL pod contains as much nicotine as a pack of 20 regular cigarettes.



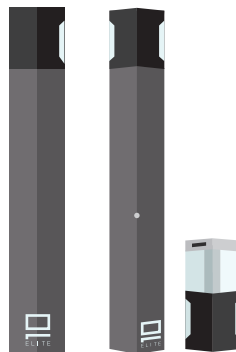
JUUL became available for sale in the United States in 2015. As of December 2017, JUUL is the top-selling e-cigarette brand in the United States.

News outlets and social media sites report widespread use of JUUL by students in schools, including in classrooms and bathrooms.

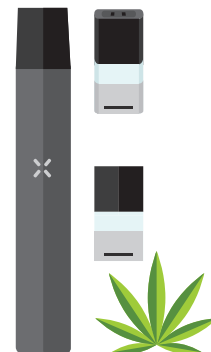
Other devices are becoming available that look like USB flash drives. Examples include the MarkTen Elite, a nicotine delivery device, and the PAX Era, a marijuana delivery device that looks like JUUL.



JUUL



MarkTen Elite

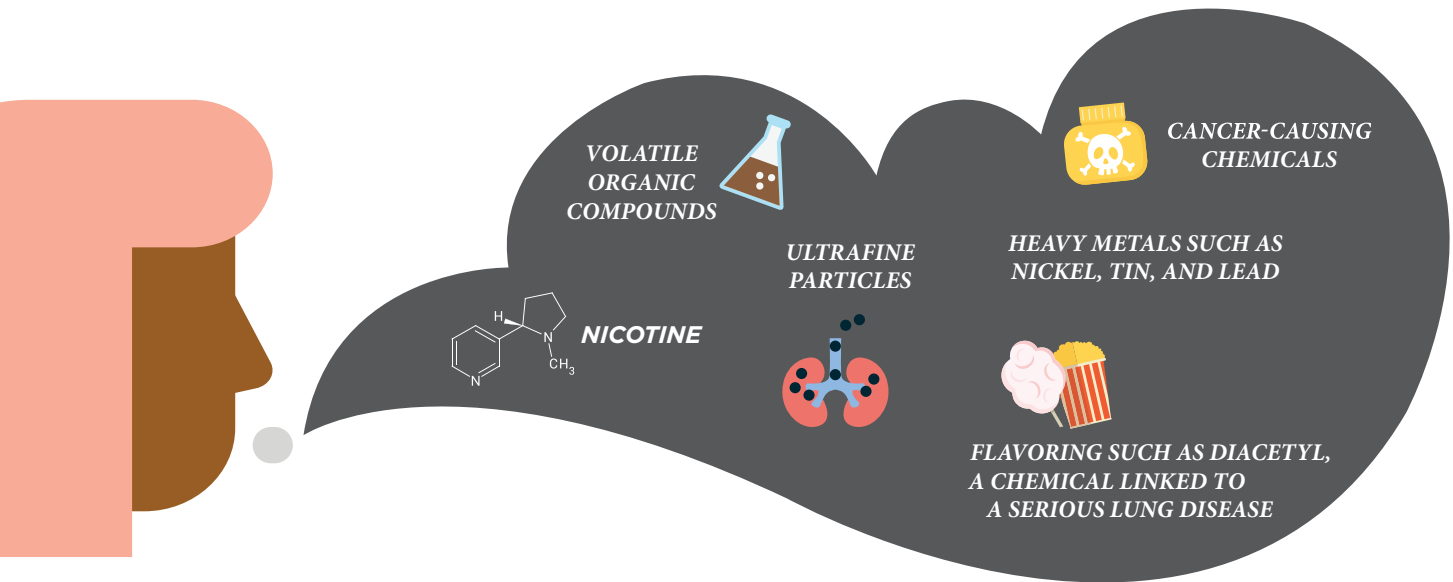


PAX Era

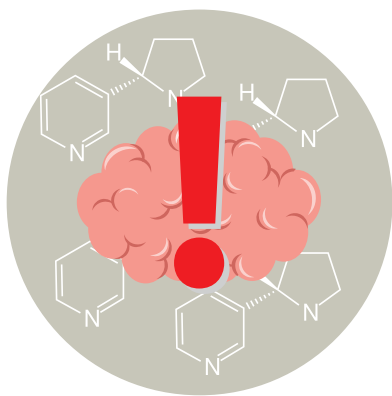
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E-CIGARETTE USE IS NOT SAFE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

E-cigarette aerosol is not harmless. It can contain harmful ingredients. However, e-cigarette aerosol generally contains fewer harmful chemicals than smoke from burned tobacco products, like regular cigarettes.



Most e-cigarettes contain *nicotine*, which is highly addictive and can *harm brain development*, which continues until about *age 25*.



YOUNG PEOPLE WHO USE E-CIGARETTES MAY BE MORE LIKELY TO GO ON TO USE REGULAR CIGARETTES.



PARENTS, EDUCATORS, AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS CAN HELP PREVENT AND REDUCE THE USE OF E-CIGARETTES BY YOUNG PEOPLE.



PARENTS CAN:

- » Learn about the different shapes and types of e-cigarettes and the risks of all forms of e-cigarette use for young people.
- » Talk to their children about the risks of e-cigarette use among young people. Express firm expectations that their children remain tobacco-free.
- » Set a positive example by being tobacco-free.



EDUCATORS CAN:

- » Learn about the different shapes and types of e-cigarettes and the risks of all forms of e-cigarette use for young people.
- » Develop, implement, and enforce tobacco-free school policies.
- » Reject youth tobacco prevention programs sponsored by the tobacco industry. These programs have been found to be ineffective for preventing youth tobacco use.



PEDIATRIC HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS CAN:

- » Ask about e-cigarettes, including devices shaped like USB flash drives, when screening patients for the use of any tobacco products.
- » Warn patients about the risks of all forms of tobacco product use, including e-cigarettes, for young people.

*PARENTS,
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CAN HELP*

