

Dear Licensee,

As you likely know, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), state and local health departments, and other clinical and public health partners are investigating a multistate outbreak of severe lung disease associated with vapor products (devices, liquids, refill pods, and/or cartridges). This investigation is ongoing and has not identified a single cause, but all reported cases have a history of using vapor products. Of the cases linked to vapor products, approximately 80 percent involve vapor products containing THC.

Working with Industry and Public Health

The Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB) is working closely with the state Department of Health, cannabis regulators in other states, and others to address this issue. LCB staff recently met with cannabis and vapor industry representatives to learn more about how vapor products are processed, where additives are sourced, as well as ways we may collaborate on this important public health issue.

Three actions have come forward that licensees and LCB can do now while public health officials conduct their investigation:

1. **Signage.** Please prominently post the attached warning sign in retail locations. This required sign is co-branded with the Washington State Department of Health.
2. **Clarify rule regarding additives on packaging and labeling.** There is some confusion among industry members that certain additives, like terpenes, imported CBD, and other cannabinoids didn't need to be disclosed on packaging. Current rules require all product components on packaging ([WAC 314-55-105](#)).
3. **Disclose to LCB all compounds, (including ingredients, solvents, additives, etc.) used in the production and processing of products that are vaped.** Public health officials have requested assistance in gathering additional information about ingredients in vapor products. We will soon be sending an email to licensees linking to a form to use to disclose the above to LCB.

Voluntary Efforts by Retailers

Some licensed retailers are voluntarily communicating with their customers about the health issue and allowing concerned customers to easily return purchased vapor products. While not included in the LCB required signage, some retailers are communicating with customers online and via bag stuffers with messages about:

- How to return products;
- Advising customers not to tamper with the devices; and
- Customer service phone numbers and emails for people with concerns.

As demonstrated by industry members in attendance at a meeting September 13, 2019, this is a public health issue that concerns us all. We appreciate your collaboration and cooperation.

Additional Information

For more information on this topic, please visit:

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Food and Drug Administration](#)
- [Washington State Department of Health](#)

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