

## Press Release

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### **Cases of Vaping-Associated Illness Continue to Increase in Georgia**

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) recently identified the state's third death from a vaping-associated illness. This most recent death is now part of the 27 confirmed cases in the state of Georgia. These patients range in age from 18-68 years and 56% are male. No specific e-cigarette device or substance has been linked to all cases. All patients reported a history of vaping, and using products containing THC, CBD, nicotine-alone or in combination.

Symptoms of vaping-associated illness, which worsen over time, include cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, chest pain, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. People with a history of vaping who are experiencing breathing problems or any of these symptoms should seek medical care immediately.

More than 1,500 vaping-associated illnesses across the U.S. are being investigated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). No specific e-cigarette device or substance has been linked to all cases, although the CDC's current investigation indicates products containing THC play a role in the outbreak.

Vaping devices and products can be obtained from stores, online retailers, from informal sources (e.g., friends, family members), or "off the street." People who vape may not know what is in these products because they can be modified to contain a mix of ingredients including dangerous and illicit substances. People who vape should not buy vaping products off the street or modify or add any substances to them.

Per CDC guidelines, DPH has issued a health advisory detailing the health risks of e-cigarettes, vaping devices and vaping products and advises against the use of these products. The advisory can be found at: <https://dph.georgia.gov/vapinglunginjury>.

More information about e-cigarettes and vaping can be found at: [https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic\\_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html#latestoutbreak-information](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html#latestoutbreak-information). To reach the Georgia Tobacco Quit Line, call: 1-877-270-STOP or visit: <https://dph.georgia.gov/ready-quit>.

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### **About Cobb & Douglas Public Health**

Cobb & Douglas Public Health, along with the Georgia Department of Public Health, has been committed to the mission of "*Healthier Lives. Healthier Community.*" since 1920. We are dedicated to improving our residents' quality of life by tracking and preventing the spread of disease, promoting health and safety, providing exceptional medical services, and ensuring that our community is prepared for public health emergencies. For more information, visit [www.cobbanddouglaspublichealth.org](http://www.cobbanddouglaspublichealth.org).

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