

E-cigarettes and vaping devices - warning of the US CDC

United States federal agency „Centers for Disease Control and Prevention“ (CDC) recently published the latest data on a number of cases of lung injury associated with the use of electronic cigarettes and vaping devices. A sharp increase in pulmonary damage associated with this type of product is currently under investigation

An electronic cigarette is a device that generates an aerosol by heating a liquid cartridge (also called e-liquid, etc.). The aerosol is then inhaled by the user of the electronic cigarette to the lungs.

The electronic cigarette cartridge may contain: nicotine, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabinoid (CBD) oils and other substances and additives. THC content in electronic cigarette cartridges is not tolerated by legislation in the Czech Republic.



What we know

530 cases of lung injury have been reported in the US. Seven deaths were confirmed in 6 countries. CDC received complete gender and age data in 373 of 530 cases. Almost three quarters (72%) of cases are men. Two-thirds (67%) of cases are between 18 and 34 years of age, 16% are under 18 and 17% are over 35. All reported cases have a history of use / inhalation of fumes from electronic cigarettes.

Symptoms of the disease reported by some patients include: cough, shortness of breath or chest pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, fever, abdominal pain. Some patients report that they develop symptoms within a few days, others report several weeks. Infections do not appear to be the cause of these symptoms.

Most patients have reported a history of using electronic cigarettes with THC cartridges. Many patients reported using THC and nicotine. Some reported the use of electronic cigarettes containing only nicotine.

What we don't know

The specific cause of these lung damage is not yet known. The investigation did not identify any specific electronic cigarette or vaping device (device, e-liquid and refill) or substance that is associated with all cases.



What the CDC recommends to the public

Until more is known, the CDC recommends those concerned about the above specific health risks to consider refraining from using electronic cigarettes / vaping devices. Those who have recently used an electronic cigarette / vaping device and have symptoms similar to those described for pulmonary injury are advised to visit a healthcare provider (doctor).

For those who use electronic cigarettes / vaping devices: Anyone using an e-cigarette or vaping device should not buy these products (eg, an e-cigarette or vaping device with THC or CBD oils) other than a designated point of sale and should not modify nor add any substances not intended by the manufacturer to these products. If symptoms occur that are reported in connection with this event, it is recommended that they consult a healthcare provider immediately.

Adults who use electronic cigarettes because they have stopped smoking are advised not to return to cigarette smoking. If they continue to use electronic cigarettes, they should be careful to see if they are experiencing the above symptoms and, if they do, see a health service provider (doctor) immediately.

Adults seeking to quit cigarette smoking are advised to: Contact their healthcare provider if they need assistance in quitting tobacco use, including electronic cigarettes. Use evidence-based interventions, including counseling and FDA (Authorized Food and Drug Administration) approved medicines.

No matter what is happening: Young people, young adults and pregnant women should not use electronic cigarettes at all. Adults who do not currently use tobacco products should not start using electronic cigarettes.

Recommendation of the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic

It is currently not known that this disease has occurred in the Czech Republic, but the Ministry of Health strongly recommends that the public should follow the recommendations of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the Czech Republic.

More information you can find here:

https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html

Source:

http://mzcr.cz/dokumenty/informace-ministerstva-zdravotnictvi-cr-k%C2%A0pouzivani-e-cigaret-vapovacich-zariz_17844_1.html