

October Newsletter – Part 2

Don't forget to attend:

National Vape Rally – Saturday, November 9, 2019, 12p-4p, at “*The Ellipse*” in Washington, DC. There are several committees, convening on Capitol Hill, that want to ban flavored vaping and other vaping products. So, be sure to attend the Rally and support your right to vape. To find out more, click [HERE](#).

We apologize this Newsletter was not released during October. We were waiting for several news reports to be released by the White House and Congress. Here's what we know so far:

National update/News

Our previous newsletter reported several states undergoing potential vape bans issued by their respective governor's office. Of the states where bans were implemented (New York, Massachusetts, Montana, Oregon, Rhode Island, Washington, Michigan), only Massachusetts had theirs upheld by the court. In this case, the judge did not issue a TRO, like other states, instead he allowed the state government to reintroduce the ban by going through the “proper” legislative process.

On Capitol Hill, the House of Representatives Energy & Commerce Subcommittee introduced *HR233*. They held several hearings and a panel of “experts” was brought in to testify. The committee members bombarded the panel with questions about vaping minors and addiction due to flavored products. The so-called experts spewed lies and untruths about vaping and encouraged the bill to move further in the House. Dr. Michael Siegel was the only person who testified truths about vaping. Extremely high taxes were also discussed and eventually added to the bill. Removing flavored products via high tax or prohibition is not sensible regulation. We, as a community, need to contact our representatives immediately and share our concerns - ask not to ban adult vape product(s) and educate & discourage youth from using such products.

Over the past day or so, the White House released small tidbits of information regarding its plan to address the vaping industry. They keep saying their report will be released “tomorrow” - this has gone on for several days. Finally, President Trump and other members of his staff claim the report will be released the week of November 11-15, 2019. In the meantime, here are some news articles to see for yourself:

- President Trump says his administration will soon release an important vaping decision (video) https://finance.yahoo.com/video/trump-administration-release-important-vaping-155426491.html?soc_src=social-sh&soc_trk=fb
- Joe Grogan (White House Domestic Policy Director) addresses questions regarding vape & tobacco products (video) <https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4828413/user-clip-joe-grogan-white-house-domestic-policy-council&fbclid=IwAR0NC9MjgjXRZldgKJ0iOkAQLK0X56RB2XaRtAk9EOx1Ph6fvoKocWYJd8I>

National news outlets are FINALLY reporting what we vapers have shouted from the very beginning. The following articles report the CDC has had a “breakthrough” when they tested additional “vaping” products, associated with lung illnesses, and has concluded THC may be the culprit:

- (*Wall Street Journal*) https://www.wsj.com/articles/investigators-find-clue-to-mysterious-vaping-injuries-11573236635?emailToken=ec740f53e7fa1b9d4a81581d4e9f0c5dCuxOCTfIZ1WAEb7avXt70bV7V04Rb%2FZZyYgmfgHr3JgEmbJQ5%20sxEkAIAi%20lo2IBD275ScnJRUFm%20jPgcpC28PF24GOzysD5vu99FfhRqRtmUXGJwu4WzFNTSIsSjk9L&reflink=article_imessage_share&fbclid=IwAR1TTZQR4Uf9kOhEKXNMwZov1dEBqJxvVM0bh2O_fk93dY4DO1ieBUrc9QU
- (*NBC*) <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/vaping/vaping-illness-breakthrough-points-vitamin-e-oil-cause-cdc-says-n1078781>
- (*USA Today*) https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2019/11/08/vaping-legal-age-go-up-expected-part-flavor-ban-next-week/2529259001/?fbclid=IwAR1TTZQR4Uf9kOhEKXNMwZov1dEBqJxvVM0bh2O_fk93dY4DO1ieBUrc9QU

What do these reports conclude? While we do not know exactly what the Trump administration will release, we do expect them to change the purchasing age, of tobacco & vape products, to 21 years and older. We assume military personnel will be exempted from this law. We further speculate that vape shops will be the only source to obtain vaping products. We agree both ideas are a means to curb youth usage. We further agree, per FDA resources, vape stores are not the guilty party who sell to youth. It is social sources, straw-purchasers, and non-vape shops.

- To view the FDA compliance checks, click [HERE](#)

Local update/news

Members of the MVA continually meet with local lawmakers here in Maryland. The most recent meetings were in Montgomery County. We met with Councilman Andrew Friedson (Government Operations & Fiscal Policy) and Chairman Gabe Albornoz (Health & Humans Services). Both councilmen are good-hearted individuals who seem to care about the wellbeing of county residents. The County Council had several bills that came up for discussion on November 5, 2019. Local store owners and MVA members testified before the committee and discussed the harm these bills will cause (if passed) and the enormous burden that will be placed on vape stores and consumers.

- To view the Council hearing & hear our testimonials, click [HERE](#)

Rhetoric of lawmakers has recently moved away from the black-market THC cartridges to flavored products are addicting minors. We have seen many committee hearings, across the country, with minors testifying to the members. We question why minors are being consulted because vaping products are for adults not minors. Vaping was designed and introduced to aid smokers in quitting cigarettes not for kids to look cool with their friends.

We have spoken with many teens and their parents and asked what type of devices are floating around their local school and where the devices are being obtained. The device most commonly used is Juul. Why? They are easily obtained from many gas stations and/or convenience stores – even though the minimum purchasing age in Maryland is 21. We were told most students are not vaping solely based on flavors but rather to get “high”. Higher nicotine devices, like Juul, but even more so THC products are what youth are looking to obtain. *WTOP* radio recently aired a story in which students, at a northern Virginia high school, were being bullied into vaping – THC products. Students are either reusing Juul, similar pod-style cartridges, or obtaining cheaply made cartridges for the THC oil. Most students, when caught, simply say they were “vaping” because they do not want to get into trouble by using marijuana products. As you know, contaminated THC products is the cause of recent lung illnesses across the country - not nicotine products.

A new problem among vaping minors has surfaced – vapers tongue. A recent article, published by insider.com, says teens are complaining their vape device no longer has flavor. Doctors are baffled by this phenomenon and worry that another potential hazard has risen from vaping. We think this is hilarious since vapers tongue is quite common among vapers and yet easily remedied with zero medical intervention. As mentioned, time and time again, vaping is an adult product - not for minors.

What can I do?

Don't give up!! Please continue to reach out to federal & local lawmakers. Tell them bans on legitimate vaping products are a detriment to public health and should be avoided. If you don't contact and inform them, who will?

- To contact the White House, please click [HERE](#)
- To find & contact your Federal Legislator, please click [HERE](#)
- To find & contact your State Legislator, please click [HERE](#)

Events

November 9, 2019 (Saturday) is the National Vape Rally, organized by the United Vapers Alliance (UVA), in Washington DC. People from across the country will meet and march together for the right to keep vaping alive. Mark your calendar now to attend this important event.

- Time: 12p-4p
- Where: The Ellipse @ 1450 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington DC

Congratulations to Mr. Wood who won the 50/50 raffle benefiting UVA Vape Rally. MVA raised \$2,000 for this event.

Finally, congratulations to the Washington Nationals for winning the World Series 2019. They beat the Houston Astros in a winner take all game 7.