The FDA considers vapor product use by youth to be at epidemic levels.

- Four out of five people who smoke start during adolescence. Although tobacco use is declining, the overall rate of nicotine use is rising due to youth use of vapor products or e-cigarettes.

- Nicotine, in any form, is harmful and addictive for youth. Exposure to nicotine during adolescence can impede brain development, which continues until roughly age 25, impacting learning, memory, and attention. This can affect performance in school, possibly leading to failure, dropout, or prolonged graduation date.

- High-tech vapor products are constantly emerging in new shapes and sizes, some of which look like USB devices and can go unnoticed in schools. It’s difficult for consumers to know what these products contain. Some vapor products marketed as containing zero percent nicotine have been found to contain nicotine.*

- The Surgeon General says vapor product use is strongly associated with the use of other tobacco products among youth and young adults. Vaping nicotine may “prime” the brain for later addiction.

Beware of tobacco industry-sponsored prevention programs

The tobacco industry has a history of sponsoring ineffective and ultimately self-serving youth prevention programs that undermine evidence-based tobacco control efforts. We encourage parents to use prevention materials from independent public health sources.

*Centers for Disease Control
https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/about-e-cigarettes.html

What is Tobacco and Vapor 21?

- Engrossed House Bill 1074 (also known as Tobacco and Vapor 21) was signed into law in 2019.

- The law goes into effect on January 1, 2020, when it will become illegal to sell tobacco or vapor products to anyone under 21.

- This includes JUULs, the most popular vapor product on the market.

- Washington kids and teens are experiencing a vaping epidemic. In 2018, one in five 10th graders and one in three 12th graders reported using vapor products (Healthy Youth Survey).

- Washingtonians can get free help to quit smoking or vaping by contacting the Washington State Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW or by accessing a smartphone app at doh.wa.gov/quit.

For more information and resources, visit:
https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/Tobacco/VaporProducts

For people with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats. To submit a request, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TDD/TTY 711).