



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
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TO: Massachusetts Health Care Providers

FROM: Monica Bharel, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner of Public Health

DATE: September 11, 2019

RE: Declaration of Possible Cases of Unexplained Vaping-Associated Pulmonary Disease Immediately Reportable Pursuant to 105 CMR 300

A number of states have reported to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cases of severe pulmonary disease in patients who reported “vaping” (i.e., use of e-cigarette devices to aerosolize substances for inhalation) in the weeks and months prior to hospital admission. Patients presented with respiratory symptoms including cough, shortness of breath, and fatigue, which worsened over a period of days or weeks. No other infectious or non-infectious etiologies have been implicated.

Because this disease is recently identified or suspected to be a public health concern, and because it is necessary to collect more information to assess and reduce the potential burden of associated morbidity, I declare possible cases of unexplained vaping-associated pulmonary disease to be immediately reportable to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and authorize surveillance pursuant to 105 CMR 300.150: *Declaring a Disease or Condition Immediately Reportable, Under Surveillance and/or Subject to Isolation and Quarantine: Temporary Reporting, Surveillance and/or Isolation and Quarantine*, effective immediately and for a period of 12 months.

All health care providers, as defined in 105 CMR 300.020, are hereby required to report all cases of diagnosed or suspected possible cases of unexplained vaping-associated pulmonary disease by a method designated by the department. The Department of Public Health is authorized to conduct surveillance activities necessary for the investigation, monitoring, control and prevention of this disease consistently with 105 CMR 300.190.

For purposes of reporting, the case definition is as published by Massachusetts Department of Public Health Clinical Advisory.