



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS
(NYSACHO) APPLAUD GOVERNOR CUOMO FOR TAKING ACTION ON
VAPING AS CASES OF ASSOCIATED LUNG DISEASE AND DEATHS
CONTINUE TO RISE**

LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS CALL ON BAN OF ALL E-CIGARETTES

(Albany, New York. September 10, 2019) Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Department of Health announced recommendations for individuals to immediately discontinue vaping as cases of lung disease continue to rise nationwide. This announcement comes following news that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is investigating 450 cases of respiratory illness and 5 deaths that have been linked to vaping. In response to this public health crisis, the New York State Department of Health will begin exploring the contents of these products and will require shops that sell vaping products post a warning of health risks. In addition, the Governor has indicated he plans to propose legislation to ban flavored electronic cigarettes.

“County Health Officials commend the leadership of Governor Cuomo and Commissioner Zucker addressing this severe public health outbreak and strongly support the preventive actions proposed by the Governor.” said Daniel J. Stapleton, President of NYSACHO and Public Health Director for the Niagara County Department of Health. “In recognition of this growing public health threat, we believe it is in the best interest of New Yorkers, to pass state laws prohibiting the use of these products completely. We also support the State efforts to explore all options to protect vulnerable populations from these products in the interim before session starts in January 2020.”

Local health departments are responsible for ensuring the health and safety of the communities they serve and are committed to evidence-based programming and tobacco control programs. Through their tobacco control programs, local health departments are responsible for preventing initiation of tobacco and electronic cigarette use in youth; reduction of tobacco use among vulnerable populations; adopting tobacco control policies and contributing to the science and research of tobacco control.

For more information or to obtain help quitting, please contact your local health department. Contact information is available by visiting www.nysacho.org.

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