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**LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS TO STATE LEADERS: VAPING ILLNESSES SOUND DEADLY  
ALARM ON THE DANGERS OF VAPING AND LEGALIZED RECREATIONAL CANNABIS**

(Albany, New York. October 17, 2019) Governor Cuomo met today with neighboring State leaders to discuss a regional framework for cannabis and vaping. On the same issues, County Health Officials and public health professionals met in Westchester to talk about policy considerations and potential implications for public health.

“County health officials stand strongly opposed to legalization of non-medical, adult-use cannabis and have immense concerns about the escalating numbers of reported lung injuries due to vaping” said Daniel J. Stapleton, President of NYSACHO and Public Health Director in Niagara County. “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 vaping products completely.”

“In addition, public health science has proven that cannabis usage increases motor vehicle accident deaths, that it increases child poisonings and increases the likelihood that users move on to other even more dangerous drugs. Studies have also proven a link between cannabis use and mental illnesses. And those are the elements of cannabis use that are actually understood. What’s just as troubling to public health officials are the impacts of cannabis use that are not yet understood.”

“For these reasons, public health officials remain strongly opposed to legalizing adult-use recreational cannabis and we implore the Governor and the Legislature to make public health their top priority by again rejecting legalization. As we have learned from the vaping illness epidemic, and from the experiences of other states, the cost of legalization will be terribly high for thousands of New York families if they fail to do so.”

For more information or to obtain help quitting, please contact your local health department. Contact information is available by visiting [www.nysacho.org](http://www.nysacho.org).

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