

New Laws in Vermont for Tobacco and Vape Products

Vermont Department of Health officials recently reported that 34 percent of Vermont high school students have tried vaping, and risked getting addicted to nicotine, based on its latest data (VT YRBS 2017). At Twin Valley High School, 32 percent of students have tried electronic vapor products (WSWSU 2017 YRBS). The state legislature has listened to concerns of parents, principals, teachers, and health professionals regarding the dangers of nicotine addiction to youth and adults, passing three pieces of legislation that took effect.

First, all electronic cigarettes and products, such as cartridges, will carry a huge excise tax, 92 percent, as of July 1. The tax will increase the price of a \$20 product to \$38. Raising the tax on tobacco has repeatedly been shown to reduce the purchase and use of tobacco products by young people.

Second, online sellers are only be able to ship nicotine products to Vermonters who have a license to sell them (such as convenience stores). Many of our young people have been using the computer to purchase Juul cartridges, etc. Vermonters without a license will be forbidden to buy these items as of July 1.

Third, as of September 1, the age of purchase for all products containing nicotine will be raised from 18 to 21.

