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NEWS RELEASE

Public Health Officials Applaud Clean Air Ordinance

Five year anniversary comes amid growing concerns about lung disease

EL PASO, Texas – In 2014 the City of El Paso Department of Public Health, along with various community agencies, spearheaded an effort to update the previous smoke-free ordinance. In June of that year City Council amended the regulation to include the restriction of electronic smoking devices and vaping in public areas.

“In the past few weeks the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) have issued warnings to residents who have previously used vaping devices, letting them know that there is a growing number of lung injuries being reported across the country,” said Robert Resendes, Public Health Director. “El Paso led the way when it came to banning smoking in public areas in 2001 and again with electronic cigarettes in 2014, and we are just now beginning to realize how these ordinances can help prevent chronic health issues. We are very appreciative of our City Council for having made their decision five years ago.”

There are currently two reported cases of vaping-associated severe lung disease in the West Texas region and 49 more cases across other parts of the State. DSHS officials are recommending that people who experience difficulty breathing, cough, or other symptoms in the days or months after vaping should seek immediate medical attention.

According to the CDC, there are more than 500 cases of lung injury reported in the U.S and seven deaths already confirmed. All reported cases have a history of e-cigarette product use or vaping. Most patients have reported a history of using e-cigarette products containing THC and many patients reported using THC and nicotine. Some reported the use of e-cigarette products containing only nicotine.

To learn more about the possible side effects vaping please visit:

https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html

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