

**PART 1**

**E-CIGARETTES POSING HEALTH DANGER TO CHILDREN**

**PART 2**

**CONVERTING E-CIGARETTES TO USE THC OIL**

The American Association of Poison Control Centers are urging the public, especially parents, to use caution when using e-cigarette devices and highly concentrated liquid nicotine and to keep them away from children. Poison centers throughout the United States are reporting a marked increase in calls about accidental exposure to e-cigarette devices and the liquid nicotine contained within them. Emergency Rooms are also reporting an increase in children being admitted after coming in contact with e-cigarette devices and liquid nicotine.

**WHAT ARE E-CIGARETTES?**

Electronic cigarettes are smoking devices often designed to look and feel like regular cigarettes. They use cartridges filled with a liquid that contains nicotine, flavorings, and other chemicals. A heating device in the e-cigarette converts the liquid into a vapor which the person inhales known as “vaping.”

The e-cigarette comes in three sections: 1) battery, 2) the middle section called the vaporizer/atomizer that heats the liquid, 3) and the cartridge/mouth piece where the nicotine is stored. The cartridge is refillable and may contain up to 20 mg of nicotine per cartridge.

The amount of nicotine and chemical compounds in a cartridge can vary between brands. The liquid refillable nicotine can be sold by the vial, the gallon, and even the barrel.

Most e-cigarette cartridges range between 1.8% and 2.4% concentrations, however, higher concentrations of 7.2% or 10% are widely available on the internet.

E-liquids are powerful neurotoxins and should be considered a poison. When refilling a cartridge a small amount of e-liquid dropped on the skin is immediately absorbed and can cause a reaction.

**THE DANGER TO CHILDREN**

E-liquids come in many flavors like: cotton candy, gummy bear, bubble gum, cherry, peppermint, chocolate, peach schnapps, pina colada, java jolt – and give off a fragrant smell.

Wonderful odors, brightly colored packaging, curiosity to take something apart and/or to

taste. Even a tiny amount of e-liquid, whether ingested or absorbed through the skin of a child, can cause vomiting, seizures, salivation, increased heart rate and blood pressure. A teaspoon of highly diluted e-liquid, if ingested, can kill a small child.

The American Association of Poison Control Centers recommends the following steps:

- Protect your skin when handling the product.
- Always keep e-cigarette devices and liquid nicotine locked up and out of the reach of children.
- Follow the specific disposal instructions on the label.
- If you think someone has been exposed to an e-cigarette or liquid nicotine, call your doctor or local poison center at 1-800-222-1222 immediately.

## **CONVERTING E-CIGARETTES TO USE THC OIL**

Law enforcement agencies are warning parents and teachers about teens converting e-cigarettes to use marijuana (THC) oil, liquid, or wax.

Gaining popularity among high school and middle school students, who pair the e-cigarette with THC oil the chemical responsible for most of marijuana's psychological effects, to achieve a potent high that can be 10 times more powerful than smoking marijuana.

There is no smell and students can use unnoticed at home or in the classroom. The e-cigarette is small, can be carried easily concealed, and used without notice. It's the THC oil that is causing concern among parents and school administrators. If an e-cigarette is found in the possession of a student on a school campus it may lead to suspension.

If electronic cigarettes are present in the home parents should take extra caution and to openly discuss with their teen the legality of substituting the liquid and using the electronic cigarette in such a manner.

## **RESOURCES TO CONTACT & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Center (303-389-1100)
- Poison Help (800-222-1222) ([info@rmpdc.org](mailto:info@rmpdc.org))
- Poison Prevention Children's Hospital of Colorado
- Safe Kids Denver (720-777-8412) ([www.usa.safekids.org](http://www.usa.safekids.org))
- Colorado Department of Education – How Marijuana Harms Youth (<http://www.cde.state.co.us/dropoutprevention/resources>)
- Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-Main/CBON/125158347000>)
- Colorado School Safety Resource Center – Marijuana (<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPS-SafeSchools/CBON/1251648143387>)
- How Marijuana Harms Youth Brochure  
[http://dthurstone.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/How\\_Marijuana\\_Harms\\_Youth\\_2\\_Side\\_FactSheet.pdf](http://dthurstone.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/How_Marijuana_Harms_Youth_2_Side_FactSheet.pdf)