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# Florence County Health Department

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## NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Secondhand Aerosol from Electronic Cigarettes: A Growing Concern**

There are clear risks linked with secondhand cigarette smoke. State legislatures throughout the nation have banned smoking in public places. What about electronic cigarettes and vaping?

Just as people around smokers can breathe in cigarette smoke, it is possible to breathe in aerosol from electronic cigarettes, this is called secondhand aerosol. Research suggests that bystanders who breathe secondhand aerosol are exposed to the same toxins found in electronic cigarettes.

“If you are around somebody who is using e-cigarettes, you are breathing an aerosol of exhaled nicotine, ultra-fine particles, volatile organic compounds, and other toxins.” Explains Dr. Stanton Glantz, Director of the Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education at the University of California, San Francisco.

To lower the potential risks posed by secondhand aerosol exposure from electronic cigarettes, some states, counties, and cities have started restricting where people can vape. According to the American Nonsmokers’ Rights Foundation, as of October 2021, 26 states and over 1,000 municipalities have included electronic cigarettes and other electronic smoking devices in their laws and policies that ban smoking in certain spaces.

Wisconsin has a comprehensive smoke-free law that prohibits smoking in workplaces, restaurants, and bars. This has been in effect since 2010. After years of enjoying smoke-free workplaces, the Wisconsin public has come to expect clean indoor air. The rising popularity of electronic cigarettes has complicated this standard. Communities across Wisconsin are choosing to strengthen their clean indoor air policies by including electronic cigarettes and vaping.

The Northwoods Tobacco Free Coalition (NWTFC) is focused on commercial tobacco prevention and cessation for those most impacted.

“Updating local ordinances to include e-cigarettes and other electronic smoking devices supports a comprehensive approach to tobacco prevention and control efforts throughout the state. It is a stepping

stone towards changing the social norm where commercial tobacco is less desirable and less acceptable” Explained Shelby Moore, the NWTFC Coordinator.

To learn more about commercial tobacco prevention efforts in the Northwoods please reach out to Shelby Moore at [smoore@co.oneida.wi.us](mailto:smoore@co.oneida.wi.us) or at 715-369-6115 or the Florence County Health Department at 715-528-4837.

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