



OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON VAPING

The era of vaping

Technology is all around us and continues to impact all aspects of our lives. One area that is unfortunate is the growing popularity of e-cigarettes or vapes amongst our youth. While smoking rates amongst youth have steadily declined over the past few decades, there has been a steady increase in vaping among Manitoba teens since the introduction of e-cigarettes in 2004. As with many things technology-related, our youth are quick to adopt and likely know more than we do about vaping. Students as young as grade 9 have been seen/caught vaping in and around schools. Many have said they do so with their parents' knowledge.

The purpose of this article is to inform our parents about the effects of vaping, vaping and the law and vaping/smoking and the Louis Riel School Division.

What is vaping?

Vaping is the act of inhaling and exhaling a vapour produced by a vaping product, such as an electronic cigarette. Unlike burning and smoking tobacco, people who vape use these devices to heat up an e-liquid or e-juice that turns into an aerosol that is then inhaled by the user. E-liquids/e-juices come in multiple flavours and often contain varying levels of nicotine, as well as other chemicals.

What are the effects of vaping?

We believe it is important to educate people about e-cigarettes and vaping. Your child may try to minimize the dangers of vaping. You may hear the following:

1. It's not dangerous, there is no nicotine.
2. It's not like smoking cigarettes.
3. I like blowing smoke not smoking.

Nicotine is a highly addictive substance and many e-liquids/e-juices DO contain nicotine. According to Health Canada, vaping may predispose youth to addiction to nicotine and possibly other drugs. Children and youth are especially susceptible to the negative impacts of nicotine, which has been shown to alter brain development and can affect memory and concentration.

Vaping and the law

As of May 2018, the Government of Canada is now regulating vaping products sold in Canada via the Tobacco and Vaping Products Act. Most importantly for parents, it is illegal to sell or give vaping products to anyone under 18 years of age.

In October 2017, the Government of Manitoba enacted the Non-Smokers Protection Amendment Act (e-cigarettes), which also prohibits the sale of e-cigarettes and vaping products to minors, and indicates that “no person shall supply or offer to supply a vapour product to a child.” As well, this legislation indicates that the use of e-cigarettes is prohibited in places where smoking is currently prohibited, including enclosed public places and indoor workplaces.

The City of Winnipeg goes further. By-law No. 62/2011 bans smoking on the premises of all schools.

Vaping/smoking and the Louis Riel School Division

All Schools in the Louis Riel School Division are smoke-free and vape-free zones ([ADC-GBED Smoking in Workplaces: Tobacco-Free Schools/Workplaces](#)). This means there is no smoking/vaping permitted in schools or on school division property at any time by anyone, whether parent, staff member, student or member of the public.

Given the addition of vaping to federal and provincial laws, our students should not possess or smoke vaping products on school property as they are under the legal age.

Students caught vaping in the school and on school grounds are in violation of Manitoba law and acting in defiance of school rules. Consequences could include:

1. Confiscation of the vape (*which will be handed over to parent/guardian*).
2. Meeting with school administration and students, parents/guardian to discuss expectations.
3. Suspension from school (*either in school or out of school suspension*).

Additional information on vaping

Government of Manitoba: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/tobacco/laws.html>

Health Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/smoking-tobacco/vaping.html>

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