

The Louis Riel School Division Official Statement on Vaping

While invention and the advancement of technology can often have positive impacts on our lives, one product that came to market in the late 2000's is showing the opposite results.

With the introduction of e-cigarettes and their rise in popularity in Manitoba, vaping has also seen an increase in use.

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 2004. In the Louis Riel School Division (LRSD), some learners have been seen/caught vaping in and around schools. Many have said they do so with their parents' knowledge.

What is Vaping?

Vaping is the act of inhaling and exhaling an aerosol produced by a vaping product, such as an electronic cigarette. Vaping doesn't require burning like cigarette smoking. The device heats a liquid into a vapour, which then turns into aerosol. This vapour is often flavoured and can contain nicotine. Vaping devices are usually battery-powered and may come with removable parts. Vaping products have many names such as mods, vape pens, e-hookahs or tank systems. They may also be known by various brand names.

What are people vaping?

Most of the substances, which can be liquid, wax or herbs, that people purchase for vaping devices are flavoured and contain nicotine. Nicotine is a highly addictive substance and many e-liquids/e-juices 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 23, 2018, the Tobacco and Vaping Products Act was enacted by the Government of Canada to regulate the manufacture, sale, labelling and promotion of tobacco products and vaping products sold in Canada. 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. There is also a City of Winnipeg by-law (No. 62/2011) that bans smoking on all school premises.

Vaping/smoking and LRSD

All schools in LRSD are smoke-free and vape-free zones ([ADC-GBED Smoking in Workplaces: Tobacco-Free Schools/Workplaces](#)) meaning 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.

Students under the age of 18 are also not permitted to have any smoke/vaping products on school property.

Students caught vaping in a LRSD school and/or 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 a parent/guardian).
2. School administration meets with student and a parent/guardian to discuss expectations.
3. Suspension from school (either in school or out of school suspension).

Additional information on vaping:

Talking with your teen about vaping: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/health/publications/healthy-living/talking-teen-vaping-tip-sheet-parents.html>

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

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

LRSD Policy: Schools/Workplaces Free of Tobacco and Electronic Vapour Devices: <https://www.lrsd.net/School-Board/DivisionalPolicies/Documents/Policy%20A/ADC-Schools-Workplaces%20Free%20of%20Tobacco%20and%20Vapour%20Devices%202019.pdf>

