

Kentucky Updates – September 2021

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With rates of Covid-19 again on the rise and children back in schools, we must be ever vigilant in our battle against E-cigarette use. Young people who have used cigarettes/e-cigarettes in the previous 30 days are almost five times as likely to experience COVID-19 symptoms, such as coughing, fever, tiredness, and difficulty breathing as those who never smoked/vaped. Teachers are reporting higher levels of vaping than ever before, and do not have the resources to combat this surge. As pediatricians, we can directly confront these trends by educating our patients and their parents.

New resources/events this month:

1. New AAP Resource: [Youth Tobacco Cessation: Considerations for Clinicians](#)

This brief, practical guide is designed to support pediatricians and other pediatric health clinicians in screening patients for tobacco use and providing behavioral and pharmacological support to help youth quit. The resource uses an easy, 3-step model, “[Ask-Counsel-Treat \(ACT\)](#),” to guide clinical interactions around cessation.

Topics Covered:

- Screening for tobacco use, including smoking and vaping
- [Behavioral cessation supports](#), including texting services, quitlines, online resources
- Pharmacological supports, including [Nicotine Replacement Therapy](#)
- [Flowchart](#) for clinical interactions
- Using the [EHR](#) to identify and address tobacco use

2. Webinar: “E-Cigarette Potpourri: Hot Topics & Random Reddit Posts on Youth Vaping”

The AAP Julius B. Richmond Center of Excellence is hosting a webinar that looks at youth vaping as it relates to COVID-19 infection, its environmental impact, and the health effects to youth who use e-cigarettes. The webinar will be held on **Friday, September 24, 2021, from 11:00am-12:00pm CST**. This webinar is targeted to pediatricians and other clinicians who care for adolescents, public health professionals, schoolteachers and administrators, and caretakers who interact with youth. Subject Matter Expert: Christopher Harris, MD, FAAP. [Register Now!](#)

3. **The Truth Initiative** has [a new video](#) describing the number of youth exposed to tobacco via streaming platforms, which is especially timely given the uptick in streaming since the COVID-19 pandemic began. *Young people are 3x more likely to start vaping when exposed to smoking imagery in shows.*