



YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Town Center
12 Mudge Way
Bedford, MA 01730-2171
Phone 781-275-7727
Fax 781-275-7767

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Date: August 30, 2018

Contact: Sue Baldauf
Phone: 781-275-7727

E-Cigarettes & Vaping - What Parents Need to Know

Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healy reported in June that over the last few years, e-cigarette use has increased 900% among high school students in the United States. In 2015, almost 50% of Massachusetts high school students reported having used e-cigarettes at least once. Based on recent reports, usage rates have only increased since then.

As many of you may know, electronic cigarettes are battery powered devices that heat liquid into a vapor. While electronic cigarettes come in varying shapes and sizes, the popular JUUL devices have a sleek, modern design that resembles a USB flash drive. The liquid in vaping devices often contains nicotine, a highly addictive substance as you all know and that can lead to serious health consequences for young people whose brains and bodies are still developing. Vaping one pod is equivalent to 200 puffs or one whole pack of traditional combustible cigarettes. The liquids may also contain other unhealthy chemicals and compounds, including carcinogens.

Bedford High School has seen this increase grow to epidemic proportions in our teen population locally and is concerned as well. On Back to School Night **Thursday, October 11, 2017**, we have invited **Massachusetts Municipal Association Tobacco Control Director D.J. Wilson** to speak to parents of our teens from **5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** in the **Bedford High School Auditorium**. Parents, come learn how to keep your kids safe.

D.J. Wilson is the Tobacco Control Director for the Massachusetts Municipal Association. As Tobacco Control Director, D.J. offers technical and legal assistance to municipalities on all aspects of tobacco control policy. He is also a member of a bi-weekly policy committee at the Massachusetts Tobacco Control Program that deals with changing trends in tobacco control, tobacco industry tactics and how to incorporate the numerous areas of applicable state and federal law into a municipality's tobacco control efforts. D.J. is a member of the Massachusetts Bar and a graduate of New England School of Law and Northeastern University.

This free Workshop is sponsored by Bedford Youth & Family Services in collaboration with Bedford High School and Bedford High School Parent Association.
Questions? 781/275-7727 or email youthandfamily@bedfordma.gov

For more information about the event contact BYFS at 781-275-7727.
EContact: sueb@bedfordma.gov