



PRESS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release

August 28, 2019

Joint Statement on Vaping and Dab Pens

Schools across the country are dealing with the growing threat to student health as a result of the increase in student vaping. You may also have heard the term “JUUL or JUULING” (pronounced Jewelring), referring to a specific type of vape device that resembles a flash drive. Surry County is not immune to these concerns, and we want to be proactive and take the necessary steps to keep parents informed of the dangers and to keep students safe.

Vaping is the inhaling of a vapor created by an electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) or other vaping devices, such as a JUUL. Vaping or JUULing has become more popular among teenagers than regular cigarettes, especially because vaping devices can be used for “anything from flavors like mango, mint or tutti frutti, to flavorings containing nicotine or THC, the chemical compound in marijuana that produces the high.”¹

Recently, new concerns school administrators across the country are grappling with have been the use of vapes to ingest drugs like marijuana or other chemical compounds in devices called “wax pens” or “dab pens” (dabbing). Dabbing has very serious, immediate, and overwhelming medical effects, including, but not limited to lack of coordination, hallucinations, poor decision making, and increased heart rate.² Long-term effects of dabbing can have very serious consequences on one’s mind and body such as addiction, permanent paranoia and anxiety, cardiac problems, and lung damage.

Recently, we have had a couple of isolated cases of adverse effects of dabbing and have been working with the Director of Surry County Emergency Services, Mr. John Shelton, and our local law enforcement agencies. Parental involvement is essential to help students stay safe and healthy so they can achieve academically. Surry County Schools values the partnerships we have with parents to ensure all of our students are safe, healthy, and successful. Thus, we encourage parents to be aware, by knowing the signs and symptoms of vaping, JUULing, and dabbing. It is also important to remain vigilant with parental involvement in students’ lives, even in middle school and high school, when developmentally, students may push parents away.

Student safety is the highest priority for Surry County Schools and we encourage you to use this information as a springboard for conversations with your child about the teen vaping trend. We stand ready to partner with you and appreciate everyone’s efforts to work with us as we emphasize the health, wellness, and safety of all of our students at school. If you have questions or need additional resources, please contact your child’s principal or school counselor.

¹ <https://drugfree.org/parent-blog/the-teen-vaping-trend-what-parents-need-to-know/>

² <https://addictionresource.com/drugs/marijuana/marijuana-dabbing-use-signs/>