



**ANNOUNCEMENT: C-17-02**  
**OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT & EARLY LEARNING**  
**BUREAU OF CERTIFICATION SERVICES**

**ISSUE DATE:** 2/13/17  
**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately  
**SUNSET DATE:** Ongoing

**SUBJECT:** Vaping and the Use of Electronic Cigarettes in a Child Care Facility

**TO:** Bureau of Certification Staff; Child Care Center, Group Child Care Home and Family Child Care Home Operators

**FROM:** Suzann Morris  
Deputy Secretary, Office of Child Development and Early Learning

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzann Morris".

**PURPOSE:**

To provide policy clarification which prohibits the use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) or similar devices around children in child care facilities.

**BACKGROUND:**

The safety of our children in care remains the utmost priority. There have been some concerns regarding the recent trend of “vaping” and the potential use of e-cigarettes around children in care brought to the attention of Certification Representatives.

Vaping is defined as the inhalation and exhalation of the vapor produced by an e-cigarette or similar device. An e-cigarette is a cigarette-shaped device containing a nicotine-based liquid that is vaporized and inhaled, used to simulate the experience of smoking tobacco.

According to a December, 2016 Surgeon General report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, “e-cigarettes can expose users to several chemicals, including nicotine, carbonyl compounds, and volatile organic compounds, known to have adverse health effects” (U.S. Dept. of HHS, 2016).

A similar finding from the American Lung Association states that “while e-cigarettes do not contain smoke, they do expose others to secondhand emissions” and that “there is no evidence that shows e-cigarette emissions (secondhand aerosol) are safe for non-users to inhale.” The American Lung Association also “supports prohibiting the use of e-cigarettes in worksites and public places, and including e-cigarettes under smoke free laws with other tobacco products” (ALA, 2016).

**DISCUSSION:**

This announcement serves to inform child care providers and Certification Representatives that vaping or any use of e-cigarettes and similar devices should be categorized in the same class as regular cigarettes, pipes, or cigars. Therefore, e-cigarettes and like devices may not be used within a child care space, a play space or a food preparation area when children are in care or when food is

being prepared. Any observed violation of this regulation by the Office of Child Development and Early Learning and its representatives will result in a citation at §3270.68, §3280.68 or §3290.66, relating to smoking.

**NEXT STEPS:**

1. The Bureau will share this policy clarification with all Certification staff.
2. The Bureau will share this policy clarification with child care center, group child care home, and family child care home operators with the expectation that it is shared with their staff and parents.

**REFERENCES:**

"E-cigarettes and Lung Health." *American Lung Association*. N.p., n.d. Web. 04 Jan. 2017. <<http://www.lung.org/stop-smoking/smoking-facts/e-cigarettes-and-lung-health.html>>.

*E-cigarette Use among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2016. Dec. 2016. Web. 4 Jan. 2017. <[https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/2016\\_SGR\\_Full\\_Report\\_non-508.pdf](https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/2016_SGR_Full_Report_non-508.pdf)>.

**Comments and Questions Regarding this Announcement Should be Directed to the Provider's Regional Office of Child Development and Early Learning:**

**Western Region: (412) 565-5193  
Central Region: (717) 772-7078  
Northeast Region: (570) 963-4371  
Southeast Region: (215) 560-2541**