E-CIGARETTE USE IN TEENS INCREASES LIKELIHOOD OF SMOKING TOBACCO

From the School Health Services website

A new study found that high school students who had used e-cigarettes were more likely to start smoking tobacco than students who abstained altogether.

“If [teens] use e-cigarettes, and they enjoy the experience of inhaling nicotine, it’s possible that they might be more open to trying other tobacco products, like conventional cigarettes and other smokeable tobacco products,” said lead study author Adam M. Leventhal, PhD, of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, in an audio interview for JAMA. “Of course, that’s a major public health concern.”

For this study, Dr. Leventhal and his team looked at whether students who used e-cigs would then turn to conventional smoking, which can cause cancer and heart disease. Researchers interviewed 2,530 high school students and asked about their e-cig and tobacco usage. They found that students who had used the devices were more than twice as likely to smoke cigarettes as non-users. Exposure to e-cigs was also tied to smoking cigars and hookah.

The team noted that more research is needed to determine whether e-cigs are, in fact, a “gateway” to traditional tobacco. The study and editorial were published August 18th in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

If your district has not already done so, there should be a section in your code of conduct that specifically addresses e-cigarettes. Our department can assist you in modifying your code of conduct to include this important topic.

http://www.schoolhealthservicesny.com/

NEW STUDY TIES CHILDHOOD CANCER TO PESTICIDES

By Carol Sneyd, Regional Safety Technician

A recent news article by Andrew M. Seaman of Reuters Health, reported that “a new analysis of existing research finds that kids exposed to pesticides indoors are at higher risk for childhood cancers”. In a report in the journal, Pediatrics, the authors write “that children can be exposed to pesticides when they play on treated surfaces and then put their fingers in their mouths ... Childhood
exposure to indoor insecticides was linked to a 47 percent increased risk of childhood leukemia and a 43 percent increased risk of childhood lymphomas.” In New York State, we have fairly stringent regulations on the use of pesticides in schools. By now most of our districts have Integrated Pest Management Plans in place. The Plans outline means by which the district reduces the use of pesticides by making the school less hospitable to the pests. Some of the basic ways to do this are by:

1. Removing the source of food by cleaning up food spills immediately, emptying trash receptacles regularly, and storing food items in tightly closed containers.
2. Removing the source of water by repairing leaking pipes and cleaning wet areas quickly.
3. Closing up small openings in the exterior of the building AND by closing doors and reducing gaps in doors to limit access to pests. A mouse can squeeze through an opening the size of a dime.

In addition to protecting our children indoors, the state Department of Environmental Conservation has regulations in place which limit the use of pesticides on playing fields and playgrounds. The link below can help:

http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/41822.html

Our department can provide you with a template for your Integrated Pest Management Plans or can help you to write them. We can perform initial inspections of your buildings to identify possible conditions that can attract pests.

**CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT**

“Defusing and Managing Problem Students and Confrontational Parents: School and Police Tactics that Work”

Dr. John More of Response Law will provide attendees with the tools and knowledge to communicate and handle a violent student and manage confrontational parents effectively. This conference is co-sponsored by NYSIR and by PNW BOCES.

DATE: November 17, 2015
WHERE: PNW BOCES, School Services Bldg.
TIME: 8:30 a.m.

Register at MyLearningPlan®

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