

## Amended Vape Quarantine Frequently Asked Questions | Patients and Consumers

### **Can I buy a marijuana vape pen or cartridge?**

As of December 12, 2019, the Cannabis Control Commission (Commission) allowed the release from quarantine for certain marijuana vape products and has allowed the sale of medical and adult use devices used to vape flower; devices used to vape concentrate that do not have any usable cannabis (e.g. empty vape pens); and regulated vape products, such as cartridges, that are manufactured starting on December 12, 2019 that meet certain conditions. Prior to sale, newly manufactured products must pass screening for vitamin E acetate and other contaminants required under the Commission's testing protocols. The Commission's quarantine of all other vape products manufactured prior to December 12, 2019 remains in effect.

### **Are vaporizers safe?**

The Commission continues to test vape products as part of an ongoing investigation and recommends that patients and consumers educate themselves about the risks and stay up-to-date on the latest findings. The US Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified vitamin E acetate as a chemical of concern among people with e-cigarette, or vaping, product use associated lung injury (EVALI). No Massachusetts case with a confirmed injury has so far identified using vaping products that were purchased from a licensed Medical Marijuana Treatment Center (MTC) or Marijuana Establishment (ME) from our state. The CDC's investigation remains active and ongoing.

Going forward, when selling vaping products, marijuana retailers and dispensaries must include a written insert that identifies the product's manufacturer, battery, and other known components, and discloses the materials used in their atomizer coil so consumers can make educated purchasing decisions. Patients may wish to consult with their clinician regarding vaporizer use and their course of treatment.

### **Why is the Commission concerned if it has not identified the presence of vitamin E acetate in the Massachusetts regulated market?**

As part of its ongoing investigation, the Commission continues to test products for the presence of contaminants, including vitamin E acetate, and heavy metals to understand whether products that remain under quarantine may return to store shelves. The Commission's latest findings can be found here: <https://mass-cannabis-control.com/documents/>.



**I purchased a cartridge from the regulated market before the quarantine. What should I do with it?**

Independent Testing Laboratories have not detected vitamin E acetate in any of the regulated products that have been tested so far, however, early test results have raised a concern that impermissible amounts of heavy metals may develop in cartridges over an unidentified period of time. Patients or consumers who are concerned about a product they bought previously should consult with the MTC or ME that sold the product.

