

RESOLUTION NO.: 2019 - 01

SUBJECT: To Support Policies and Regulations that Prevent Youth Use of Tobacco and Nicotine Products Including Electronic-Cigarettes, or Vapes

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 23, 2019

RESOLUTION OF THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

**TO SUPPORT POLICIES AND REGULATIONS THAT PREVENT
YOUTH USE OF TOBACCO AND NICOTINE PRODUCTS INCLUDING
ELECTRONIC-CIGARETTES, OR VAPES**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 25-1-508, C.R.S., the El Paso County Board of Health (“Board of Health”) has the power and duty to develop and promote the public policies needed to secure the conditions necessary for a healthy community in El Paso County, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of disease, disability, and death in the United States, and tobacco and nicotine use continues to be a top public health concern; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Board of Health adopted Resolution No. 2019-01, Declaring Youth Vaping a Public Health Crisis in El Paso County; and

WHEREAS, lung injury associated with electronic-cigarette (e-cigarette) use, or vaping products, has resulted in a nationwide outbreak with 1,299 lung injury cases and 26 deaths, including the death of a seventeen-year-old, as of October 8, 2019; and

WHEREAS, youth in Colorado use e-cigarettes at nearly twice the national average with nearly 1 in 4 high school students in El Paso County reporting current use; and

WHEREAS, the developing brains of adolescents and young adults are particularly susceptible to the addictive properties of nicotine; and

WHEREAS, there is substantial evidence that e-cigarette use increases the risk of eventually using combustible tobacco cigarettes among youth and young adults; and

WHEREAS, more than 300 youth become regular smokers each day, and research shows that youth often turn to older friends and classmates as sources of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes; and

WHEREAS, 95% of all smokers start before age 21, and frequently transition from experimentation to addiction between the ages of 18 and 21 years; and

WHEREAS, a variety of legislative and regulatory tools and approaches are available to address these important public health concerns.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH:

Hereby recommends that El Paso County, and the municipal jurisdictions within El Paso County, consider adopting evidence-based legislative and regulatory measures to protect the health, safety, and well-being of youth and visitors in El Paso County.

MOVED, SECONDED AND ADOPTED BY THE EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 23, 2019, IN COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO.

EL PASO COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

BY: John W. Tevberg, MD
President

ATTEST BY: Susan Wheeler
Secretary