



School Board Office, District No 40
811 Ontario Street
New Westminister, BC V3m 0J7

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newwestschools.ca

October 9, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Re: Health Risks and Harmful Effects of Vaping

Our district and other school districts in BC and across Canada are seeing an increase in e-cigarette use, also known as vaping. Health Canada has taken a number of steps in recent months to address the rise of vaping in Canada and, in particular, the risk that it poses to youth.

As we learn more about the potential harmful effects of vaping, we are increasingly concerned about recent reported cases of serious, sometimes life threatening, respiratory illness linked to vaping in the US and Canada. The heated liquid solution used in these devices produces an aerosol that consists of fine particles that may contain nicotine or other harmful chemicals and there is growing evidence that indicates vaping products are dangerous, particularly to young people and children.

Our primary concern is student health and safety. New Westminister Schools promotes healthy learning and working environments for students and staff, as well as the use of education to support healthy lifestyles. The possession or use of a vaping device is prohibited on school property, including playing fields and parking lots, and at school events.

To increase education and awareness of the risks of vaping and substance use, New Westminister Schools provides trustworthy resources for parents at <https://newwestschools.ca/about-us/parent-public-resources/vaping-resources/> where you can find material that will help you to talk with your child(ren) about the harmful effects of vaping.

In addition, resources are provided to your child(ren) at school where students can also seek support from Drug and Alcohol Prevention workers in their school.

We encourage parents to learn more and to talk to their child(ren) about the potentially harmful effects of vaping and we are committed to continuing to provide updated information for parents through our website and for students at their schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Hachlaf", written over a horizontal line.

Karim Hachlaf
Superintendent of Schools