



**Commonwealth of Kentucky  
Cabinet for Health and Family Services**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Health and Family Services Responds to Surgeon General Advisory**

**FRANKFORT, Ky.** (Dec. 18, 2018) - An explosion in the popularity of vaping and e-cigarette products like "Juul" has prompted the U.S. Surgeon General to issue a health advisory warning teenagers about the dangers of vaping and using e-cigs. The move comes as new research shows a 78 percent increase in e-cig use among high school students.

Our Public Health Commissioner, Dr. Jeff Howard, says vaping and e-cigarette is an emerging public health issue. The Commissioner encourages everyone to make sure that young people and teenagers are aware of the risks with e-cigarettes and do as much as possible to prevent the use of e-cigs.

Elizabeth Anderson-Hoagland, with our Tobacco Prevention and Cessation program says young people are attracted to the flavors of these products and then once they try the flavors they get the nicotine hit. So they come because it tastes good and they stay because it's addictive.

Both Dr. Howard and Hoagland appear in a CHFS video on this topic that's posted at the Cabinet's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/kychfs/>. Unedited video and b-roll elements of this, and other stories, are available for unrestricted media use at the CHFS MediaLink channel on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC99OwJNHHYu9ve13279wIlg>. Media members are encouraged to freely use any of the material on our MediaLink site for use in the production of their own stories.

Additional information is available at <http://chfs.ky.gov/>.

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*The Cabinet for Health and Family Services is home to most of the state's human services and healthcare programs, including the Department for Medicaid Services, the Department for Community Based Services the Department for Public Health, the Department for Aging and Independent Living and the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities. CHFS is one of the largest agencies in state government, with nearly 8,000 full- and part-time employees located across the Commonwealth focused on improving the lives and health of Kentuckians.*