

**Date:** November 15, 2019

**Title:** Update on Youth Vaping in Schools

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The Ministry of Education is working with the Ministry of Health on a vaping action plan to protect youth against the harms of vaping. Education is key for informing students about the dangers of tobacco and vaping and information resources play a vital role in deterring students from substance use and in preventing addictions. Across the 2019/20 school year and beyond, the ministry will be working with:

- students to de-normalize vaping through youth engagement groups around the province
- teachers by offering age-appropriate resources and information aligned with the Physical and Health Education curriculum to support classroom conversations around substance use and healthy decision-making
- schools and districts to collect information on local policies and to identify evidence-based suggestions for effective practices
- partner ministries to support vaping education resources and intervention and cessation programs being developed or already underway

Collectively, it is imperative to work with education partners on the issue of youth vaping, raising awareness, connecting students and teachers to resources and keeping vape products out of the hands of youth. The ministry is aware of several local initiatives led by districts and schools and is currently working to understand which approaches are making the biggest impact for student. School districts have been leaders in having discussions with students and deploying strategies and programs to get the message out and respond to the needs of their community. The ministry will continue to work with local school districts as partners on this.

The Ministry of Education also has a number of resources through our recently expanded ERASE strategy. These resources support youth as they deal with a number of issues, including substance use and vaping. For more information, please visit the [erase](#) website.

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