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PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

FDA calls teen use of e-cigarettes an “epidemic”

TWIN FALLS – Today the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released a statement calling the teen use of e-cigarettes an “epidemic”. The statement also warned 1300 retailers and 5 major manufacturers of e-cigarette devices that their flavored products may be pulled from the market if the companies cannot prove, in the next 60 days, that they can keep their products away from teenagers.

"The disturbing and accelerating trajectory of use we're seeing in youth, and the resulting path to addiction, must end," said FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb in a statement. "The FDA cannot tolerate a whole generation of young people becoming addicted to nicotine as a trade off for enabling adults to access these products."

"We don't know the long-term effects of these devices," said Cody Orchard, SCPHD Health Education Specialist. "It could take years to realize those effects. That's why the FDA is trying to crack down."

The most recent risk behavior survey, from the Idaho Department of Education, shows about 41 percent of Idaho high school students admit to using an electronic vapor device (including e-cigarettes, e-cigs, etc.) at least once. About 14 percent of students admitted to using one of these devices in the last 30 days.

"We are starting to see teenagers who would never have been exposed to nicotine through cigarettes - have instead been exposed through e-cigarettes," said Orchard. "Worse yet, because this is self-reported we are suspicious these numbers are actually higher."

The South Central Public Health District offers free classes to help end nicotine addiction for both teens and adults. Schools are also welcome to schedule classes on campus. Please call 208-737-5968 to schedule a class or check the calendar on our website for the current class schedule.

The FDA release:

<https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm620184.htm>

This is a link to a report from the National Institute on Drug Abuse that talks about specific e-cigarette numbers among teens in 2016: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/trends-statistics/infographics/teens-e-cigarettes>

This is a CDC page that talks a little bit more about the risks of e-cigarette use: https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/Quick-Facts-on-the-Risks-of-E-cigarettes-for-Kids-Teens-and-Young-Adults.html