

July 26, 2021

TO: Columbia City Council Members

FROM: Columbia/Boone County Board of Health

RE: Report on the Health and Safety Implications of E-cigarette Use by Youth

The Board of Health began studying the issue of youth “vaping” and its impact on mental and physical health in October 2019. We sent a letter at that time to the City Council and County Commission recommending a ban on the sale of flavored vaping products. The Council referred the issue back to the BOH for more study.

After a hiatus during 2020 caused by the pandemic, we resumed in 2021 and developed the attached report and summary of our key findings and recommendations.

The conclusions, in brief, are that:

- Vaping harms youth mental and physical health
- Youth vaping is a significant problem in Missouri and Boone County
- Additional interventions are needed to reduce teen vaping rates in Boone County (recommendations provided)

We hope this information will be of interest to the Council and will stimulate additional actions to reduce the number of Columbia youth who become addicted to nicotine.

Thank you for your attention to this serious public health issue.



Mahree Fuller Skala
Chair, Columbia/Boone County Board of Health