



MIDDLESEX-LONDON HEALTH UNIT

REPORT NO. 49-21

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 21 October 2021

SUBMISSION TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH RE: ONLINE SALES OF VAPOUR PRODUCTS

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Health:

- 1. Receive report No. 49-21 re: "Submission to the Ministry of Health re: online sales of vapour products" be received for information; and,*
- 2. Direct the Medical Officer of Health to send a letter to the Ministry of Health responding to the request for information on online vapour product sales, attached as [Appendix A](#).*

Key Points

- As part of the Ministry of Health's Youth Vaping Action Plan the Ministry is exploring online sales of vapour products. The Ministry of Health reached out to the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) on October 12th seeking feedback to help them explore approaches to ensure compliance with age-based sales restrictions for online sales.
- MLHU Tobacco Enforcement Officers have had many recent experiences that demonstrate that the online sales of vapor products in Middlesex-London have been contributing to youth access in the MLHU region.
- The MOH is asking for feedback to be provided by October 26th, 2021, attached as [Appendix A](#).

Background

The MLHU has concerns with the online sales of vapour products. In our local region, our experience demonstrates that current online retailers have inadequate safeguards to prevent underage purchases. Also, we are seeing many online purchases being made by youth under the age of 19.

Opportunity for Protective Policy Measures Through Further Action

The current lack of effective age-based restrictions for online sales of vapour products have posed significant challenges in Public Health efforts to halt vapour product uptake, especially by young people. Health Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Health should be commended for their work thus far to address vaping, but additional regulations and measures are required. As such, the health unit has drafted a response to the Ministry of Health's request for feedback on the issue, attached as Appendix A.

This report was prepared by the Healthy Living Division.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Mackie', written in a cursive style.

Christopher Mackie, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health