



February 27, 2022

Middlesex-London Board of Health
Citi Plaza 110-355 Wellington Street
London, ON N6A 3N7

Dear Matt Reid and Dr. Alexander Summers,

Thank you for the letter from the Middlesex-London Board of Health of August 2, 2022, addressed to the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, concerning youth vaping. I have been asked to respond on the Minister's behalf, and I apologize for the delay in responding.

Through [Canada's Tobacco Strategy](#), the Government of Canada is taking focussed action to help Canadians quit smoking, including groups with the highest rates of tobacco use. It is also continuing to focus on protecting young people and non-tobacco users from the negative consequences of nicotine addiction. While vaping has [risks](#), for people who are unable to quit smoking using approved quit aids like nicotine patches or nicotine gum, switching completely to vaping is a less harmful option than continuing to smoke. There are short-term general health improvements if one completely switches from smoking cigarettes to vaping products, as it reduces their exposure to harmful chemicals. Non-smokers and young people should not vape.

Vaping rates among Canadian youth have stabilized, according to a [recent survey](#), yet remain relatively high. Health Canada has made extensive investments in public education, increased compliance and enforcement of existing rules and advanced regulations to put in place more regulatory controls that aim to reduce youth access and the appeal of vaping products to youth.

As you may be aware, [regulations](#) now prohibit the promotion and advertising of vaping products anywhere they can be seen or heard by youth. [Regulations](#) are also now in force setting a maximum nicotine concentration for all vaping products.

On December 9, 2022, the final report of the first *Tobacco and Vaping Products Act* (TVPA) legislative review was tabled in Parliament. The review identifies areas for potential action including: examining access to vaping products by youth; communicating the potential benefits of vaping as a less harmful source of nicotine for people who smoke as well as health hazards; strengthening compliance and enforcement; and addressing scientific and product uncertainty to better understand the vaping product market and health impacts of vaping. [The report is available on Canada.ca.](#)



We recognize and appreciate the important work of the Middlesex-London Board of Health and your contribution to our collective efforts. Please be assured that your recommendations about further restricting vaping products will be taken into consideration as we continue to take action to protect the health of Canadians. For more information on our approach to regulating vaping products, their risks and potential benefits, please visit Canada.ca/vaping.

Again, thank you for taking the time to write about this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Sonia Johnson, Director General
Tobacco Control Directorate
Controlled Substances and Cannabis Branch
Health Canada