

# Hawaii Epi Bulletin

HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DISEASE OUTBREAK CONTROL DIVISION

**Fall 2019**

## Vaping Associated Lung Injury



E-cigarettes are products that use heat to aerosolize a liquid that the users then inhale into their lungs.

The use of E-cigs is often referred to as “vaping.” The liquid used in e-cigarettes can contain nicotine, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC – the psychoactive component of marijuana), and cannabinoid (CBD) oils, as well as other additives. Nationwide, as of October 29, 2019, there have been 1,888 cases of e-cigarette, or vaping, product use associated lung injury (EVALI), including 37 deaths, reported from 49 states, the District of Columbia, and 1 U.S. territory. No specific product or substance has been identified as the cause of the illnesses, but preliminary findings show that many cases have reported using products

that contain THC and that have been obtained from informal sources, e.g., off the street or from friends and family.

In Hawaii, there have been two confirmed cases of EVALI identified; one in a resident from Hawaii Island, and one in a resident from Kauai. The Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) released a [health advisory on October 7, 2019](#), recommending: **“Do not use e-cigarettes or vaping devices of any kind. If you don’t use vaping devices, don’t start. If you are using a vaping device, stop.”** HDOH investigates all reports of potential vaping injuries and urges the public to avoid using e-cigarette products, especially any products obtained off the street or that may contain added substances. E-cigarette products should never be used by children, young adults, pregnant women, or adults who do not currently use tobacco products. Anyone concerned about their health after using an e-cigarette product should contact their health care provider.

For more information and updates, go here: [CDC](#), [HDOH](#)

## Wild Poliovirus Type 3 Declared Eradicated

World Polio Day was October 24, 2019, and was marked by the announcement that wild poliovirus type 3 (WPV3) had been declared eradicated worldwide. The last case of WPV3 identified was in 2012, in northern Nigeria. Now, two out of three strains of wild polioviruses have been eradicated, with wild poliovirus type 2 declared eradicated in 2015. The only strain remaining, wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1), is in circulation in just two countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan. As of October 23, 2019, there have been a total of 94 cases of WPV1 reported (76 cases in Pakistan and 18 cases in Afghanistan).



Photo: ©WHO/Sigrun Roesel

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) is a partnership of national governments, the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, whose mission is the complete eradication of polio globally. Since the partnership’s inception in 1988, the incidence of polio has decreased 99.9% globally.

Thanks to extensive vaccine coverage, polio was eliminated from the U.S. in 1979. The last polio case identified in Hawaii was in 1978. Although it has been eliminated in the U.S., cases can still be imported from out of the country, so it is still important to maintain high levels of vaccination coverage. In Hawaii, the vaccination rate for kindergarten students for the 2018–19 school year was 92.8%.

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This timely report of surveillance and laboratory activities from the Disease Outbreak Control Division of the Hawaii State Department of Health contains information on investigations in progress and/or diagnoses that may not yet be confirmed. The **Hawaii Epi Bulletin** is intended primarily for the use of the public health professionals, should be considered privileged, and should **NOT be distributed** further.

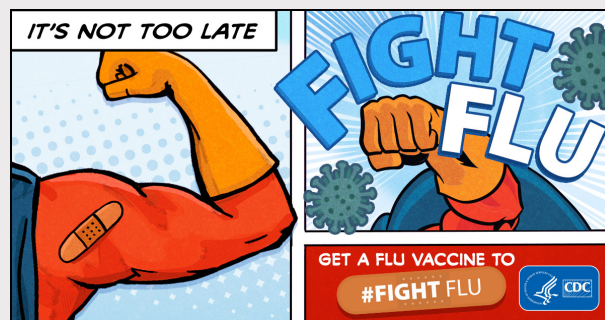
## Take 3 Actions to Fight the Flu

*The Coordinator's Corner*  
Influenza Surveillance and Response

Fight flu this season by getting your flu vaccine and encouraging others to protect themselves and their loved ones by doing the same. Getting a flu vaccine every year is the best way to protect yourself and others from flu and its potentially serious complications. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone 6 months and older get vaccinated by the end of October, but it is never too late to get vaccinated, as influenza circulates year-round in Hawaii. Flu vaccines have been updated to better match circulating flu viruses.

Stop the spread of flu viruses by taking everyday preventive actions. Avoid close contact with sick people, avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, cover your coughs and sneezes, and wash your hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.

Take antiviral drugs if your doctor prescribes them. Antiviral drugs can be used to treat flu illness, make the illness milder, shorten the time you are sick and prevent serious complications due to flu.



For more information and resources on influenza, click [here](#).

## Updates from the Pacific

### Dengue

- As of the week ending October 20, 2019, 942 cases of dengue have been reported from **YAP state, FSM**.
- The **Marshall Islands** have reported 914 cases of dengue like illness as of October 27, 2019. Of those, 280 have been laboratory confirmed.
- As of the week ending October 27, 2019, **Guam** has reported 11 confirmed cases and 7 imported cases of dengue. The first case of locally acquired dengue was reported on September 11, 2019.

### Measles

- There have been 314 suspected measles cases reported from **Samoa** as of October 27, 2019. Fifteen cases have been confirmed and 146 have laboratory results pending.
- On October 23, 2019, **Tonga** declared an outbreak of measles. As of October 28, 2019, 107 confirmed or suspected cases of measles have been reported. The first cases were identified in a high school rugby team who had traveled to New Zealand.
- There have been 1,962 confirmed cases of measles in **New Zealand** this year as of October 31, 2019.

### Leptospirosis

- **Yap state, FSM** has reported 144 rapid diagnostic test positive cases of leptospirosis this year as of the week ending October 20, 2019.

## HDOH Hawaii Health Care Provider Disease Reporting Categories

### Confidential

Infections/diseases which may carry a social stigma are to be reported with extra precautions to assure patient confidentiality. Reports are to be submitted within three working days of diagnosis.

### Urgent

Diseases or conditions that are suspicious or presenting with novel symptoms that may or may not be part of a known disease or disease complex, labeled "urgent" shall be reported by telephone as soon as a provisional diagnosis is established.

The telephone report shall be followed by a written report submitted by mail or fax within three days to the Disease Outbreak Control Division, Disease Investigation Branch on Oahu or to the District Health Office on the neighbor islands.

### Routine

Diseases labelled "routine" shall be reported by mail, by telephone, or fax to the Disease Outbreak Control Division, Disease Investigation Branch on Oahu or to the District Health Office on the neighbor islands.

### Routine/Enteric (enteric prevention priority)

Diseases labeled "routine—enteric prevention priority" shall be reported by telephone as soon as a working diagnosis is established if the individual case is a food handler, direct care provider, or pre-school-aged child. Otherwise, routine reports may be submitted.

### Outbreak Reports

Any disease shall be reported by telephone when observed to occur clearly in excess of normal expectancy as determined by the healthcare provider or the Director of Health. The telephone report shall be followed by a written report submitted by mail or fax within three days to the Disease Outbreak Control Division, on Oahu, or to the District Health Office on the neighbor islands.

## HDOH Telephone Numbers

**Oahu (Disease Investigation Branch)**  
(808) 586-4586

**Maui District Health Office**  
(808) 984-8213

**Kauai District Health Office**  
(808) 241-3563

**Big Island DHO (Hilo)**  
(808) 933-0912

**Big Island DHO (Kona)**  
(808) 322-4877

**After hours (Oahu)**  
(808) 600-3625

**After hours (Neighbor islands)**  
(808) 360-2575



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