

Second-Hand Vapor, Are E-Cigarettes Dangerous for Others?

*Acknowledgements: UL Lafayette Student Health Services
Wikipedia*

Exposure to E-Cig Users

Have you ever sat next to someone in a restaurant, the library or on a bus that was using an Electronic Cigarette and wondered “How is this different from a regular Cigarette?” Are we exposed to second- hand smoke from the vapors generated by the fashionable E-Cig?

What is an Electronic Cigarette?

An E-Cig is an electronic inhaler meant to simulate and substitute for tobacco smoking. It generally uses a heating element that vaporizes a liquid solution. Some release nicotine, while some merely release flavored vapor. They are often designed to mimic traditional smoking implements, such as cigarettes or cigars, in their use and/or appearance, although more and more devices are designed not to imitate them. The main difference: E-cigarettes don't contain tobacco. Instead, there's a mechanism that heats up liquid nicotine, which turns into a vapor that users inhale and exhale. Manufacturers and satisfied customers say that this nicotine vapor offers many advantages over traditional cigarette smoke. But regulatory agencies and some health experts aren't sure. The benefits and risks of electronic cigarette use are, as of 2013, uncertain, but they are likely safer than smoking tobacco. Laws vary widely concerning their use and sale, and are the subject of pending legislation and ongoing debate.

Studies Recently Completed

A Study recently conducted by a Biological and Chemical Toxicology Research Laboratory in Italy and The Onassis Cardiac Surgery Center in Greece illustrates findings associated with air samples collected from people exhaling cigarette smoke and vapors from e-cigarettes in a closed environment. The results were not unexpected:

“The experiment, within the limits of the observe parameters, has underlined that e-smoking does not produce detectable amounts of toxic and carcinogenic substances in the air of an enclosed space. Further studies are needed to better understand all the involved aspects. However this preliminary assessment indicates that passive vaping impact, when compared to the traditional cigarette smoking, is so low that it is just detectable, and it does not have the toxic and carcinogenic characteristics of cigarette smoking.”

E-Cigarettes on Campus

At this time, there is no University of Louisiana at Lafayette Policy regulating E-Cigarette usage on campus, (inside or outside of buildings).

For more info regarding the Study on Chemicals Released into the Environment by E-Cigs, Log on to: http://clearstream.flavourart.it/site/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/CSA_ItaEng.pdf