



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES RELEASES PROPOSED DRAFT
VAPING AND FLAVORS ORDINANCE TO CURB YOUTH TOBACCO ACCESS
COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SOUGHT IN POSSIBLE SALES BAN OF E-CIGARETTES AND
FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF COUNTY**

Stockton, CA (June 2, 2020) –San Joaquin County Public Health Services (PHS) is announcing the release of a preliminary ordinance proposal that would eliminate the sale of e-cigarettes and flavored tobacco products and impose penalties for selling such items to underage buyers by local retailers in the unincorporated parts of the county.

At the request of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors during their meeting on February 25, 2020, PHS was directed to review legislative options and engage with community stakeholders to develop a model ordinance for consideration that would help to stem the rising tide of e-cigarette use among youth and young adults. In addition, the ordinance would include restricting the sale of flavored tobacco and e-cigarette products, including menthol and a variety of over 15,000 flavors that have been developed to attract new users, especially youth, to initiate tobacco use.

The draft ordinance is posted on the PHS Smoking and Tobacco Outreach/Prevention Program (STOPP) webpage at <https://bit.ly/STOPPINFO>. Community stakeholders and the public are encouraged to provide feedback on the proposed ordinance by submitting comments in writing to the email stopp@sjcphs.org. All submissions must be received by **Friday, June 19, at 5 pm** in order to be included for consideration by the Board of Supervisors.

Virtual Community Engagement Session

To expand opportunity for stakeholder feedback on this draft ordinance, STOPP is also hosting a Virtual Community Engagement Session on **Wednesday, June 10, 2020, from 4 pm to 6 pm**, via WebEx webinar online:

- To register before the event, participants can go to <https://bit.ly/SJCflavors>.
- Participants can also join the webinar in progress without registration at <https://bit.ly/3qLGVhv>.

During this informal session, PHS staff will provide an overview of the draft ordinance, followed by a moderated public comment opportunity for the duration of the event. Participants who comment during the session will also be asked to submit their comments in writing.

“We want to make sure all of our community members, including businesses, have the chance to voice their thoughts about this ordinance,” says Dr. Maggie Park, San Joaquin County Public Health Officer. “Our goal is to reduce youth access to tobacco products that are easily hooking our kids and have limited value to our community when their health impacts can have lifelong consequences.”

For more information about STOPP, visit the PHS website at <https://bit.ly/STOPPINFO>, or contact STOPP Team at stopp@sjcphs.org or 209-468-2415.

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