
11-5-2019

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Recommended Citation

Weinstein, Mark D., "Madison County Middle Schoolers Learn the Dangers of Vaping" (2019). *News Releases*. 1018.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 5, 2019

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Madison County Middle Schoolers Learn the Dangers of Vaping

CEDARVILLE, OHIO -- Cedarville University pharmacy students will communicate drug safety solutions to middle and high school students throughout Madison County on November 7, 18 and December 20.

Two fourth-year professional pharmacy students, Hannah Schalles and Ashley Sullivan, will present on November 7 at West Jefferson High School in West Jefferson, Ohio. They will discuss correct over-the-counter medication safety based on the Ohio State University's GenRx medication safety for teens guidelines. Karen Wells and Kathy Limes, Madison County prevention partners, will also be in attendance.

"I've spent some time on my clinical rotations in the emergency department, and I once saw a child brought in for accidentally ingesting a parent's blood pressure medication," Schalles said. "I believe educating children early on can be a preventive measure against unintended toxicities and drug misuse like this accident."

The presentations on November 18 given by Jenna Stearns and Henry Sherman at London Middle School will focus on the dangers of using e-cigarettes, also called vaping. Kathy Limes, Madison County prevention partner, will co-present with Stearns and Sherman.

Joshua Pearson, a third-year professional pharmacy student, and Abigail Moon, fourth-year professional pharmacy student, will also present about vaping at Madison Plains Junior High School in London, Ohio, on December 20. Amanda Hampton, Madison County prevention services manager, will also be in attendance.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recorded more than 1,600 cases of lung injury related to vaping as of October 2019. Last fall, when Madison County administered the Ohio Healthy Youth Environments Survey, which measures teen health risk behaviors and environmental factors, it was reported that 13% of the county's ninth-graders had used an e-cigarette in the last 30 days.

"It is important to have college students presenting in schools as it is perceived to be peer-to-peer presentations," explained Hampton. "Young people are typically going to receive and accept messaging from individuals they relate to in age and experience."

"Cedarville pharmacy students are uniquely qualified to speak about drug chemicals and have an obligation to use their knowledge to give back to the community," said Pearson. "I feel that our youth were being specifically targeted with advertising for vaping but were not being given accurate information about nicotine and the vaping process. I hope that my interaction with students will give them the information to live their best life."

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 4,380 undergraduate, graduate and online students in more than 150 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, including its [Doctor of Pharmacy](#) program, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings and high student engagement ranking. For more information about the University, visit www.cedarville.edu.