

## Need to know news flash

May 2014

RE: Electronic Cigarettes

Dear parents, guardians and families:

The Edmonton Police Service recently shared information on a new trend involving the use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) to ingest drugs. We are passing this information on to you as our School Resource Officers (SROs) are beginning to see the use of e-cigarette devices by some students to smoke marijuana/weed oil.

Edmonton Public Schools fully supports the Edmonton Police Service in making the community aware of any dangerous emerging issues, and we will do what we can to restrict e-cigarette use around our schools, and inform our students, staff and parents of its dangers. To ensure the health and safety of students and staff, the Superintendent has asked principals to prohibit the use of e-cigarettes by students and staff on school property. This direction supports our student behaviour and conduct policy that clearly outlines that if a student does not show respect for district policies related to smoking, alcohol, drugs and inhalants, the consequences can result in suspension, expulsion and/or involvement of the police.

Marijuana/weed oil is very potent and can often have THC levels higher than 90 per cent as compared to the typical marijuana cigarette which is around 10 to 20 per cent. THC is the main chemical compound of the cannabis plant. E-Cigarettes only produce a vapour, so when it is used to ingest drugs, there is no smell of marijuana smoke.

An electronic cigarette is a battery-powered device which simulates tobacco smoking by producing a gas that resembles smoke. It generally uses a heating element known as an atomizer, which vaporizes a liquid solution. Some solutions contain a mixture of nicotine and flavorings, while others release a flavored vapor without nicotine.

Note: Please copy the Alberta Health Services bulletin URL below and paste on your address bar for more information.

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/oB4FNGWND3UhjRDI3bi1iSTkySDQ/edit?usp=sharing&pli=1>