



## WALLA WALLA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

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### **Walla Walla County Department of Community Health Joins Statewide Effort to Educate Public About Tobacco and Vapor 21 Legislation**

As part of its work to protect kids and teens from smoking and vaping, Walla Walla County Department of Community Health is reminding the public that [Engrossed House Bill 1074](#) goes into effect on January 1, 2020, when it will become illegal to sell tobacco and vapor products to anyone under 21.

“Young people in Washington are in the middle of a vaping epidemic,” said Amy Osterman, Tobacco Prevention Coordinator. “Raising the age of sale for tobacco and vapor products to 21 will reduce the number of kids who develop a lifelong addiction to nicotine and save thousands of lives.”

In 2018, one in five Washington 10th graders and one in three 12th graders reported using vapor products ([Healthy Youth Survey](#)) Nearly all people who smoke begin smoking before age 21—while their brains are particularly vulnerable to the effects of nicotine—and most young people get tobacco and nicotine products from peers in their social networks who can legally buy them. Kids who vape are at an increased risk of initiating cigarette smoking; raising the legal age of sale will help protect young people by preventing them from getting products tobacco and vapor products from 18, 19, or 20 year olds.

Including Washington State, tobacco and vapor 21 is currently the law – or is due to go into effect – in 18 states as well as D.C. and Guam.

Tobacco kills more than 8,000 Washingtonians each year. Washingtonians can get free help to quit smoking or vaping by contacting the Washington State Tobacco Quitline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW or by accessing a smartphone app at [www.doh.wa.gov/quit](http://www.doh.wa.gov/quit). Parents and schools can find more information about how to address youth vaping at [www.youthnow.me/schools](http://www.youthnow.me/schools).

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