

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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October 18, 2019

Dr. Anne Schuchat
Principal Deputy Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Dr. Schuchat:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Thursday, September 25, 2019, at the hearing entitled "Sounding the Alarm: The Public Health Threats of E-Cigarettes." We appreciate the time and effort you gave as a witness before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Pursuant to Rule 3 of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, members are permitted to submit additional questions to the witnesses for their responses, which will be included in the hearing record. Attached are questions directed to you from me and other members of the Committee. In preparing your answers to these questions, please address your responses to the member who has submitted the questions using the Word document provided with this letter.

To facilitate the publication of the hearing record, please submit your responses to these questions by no later than the close of business on Friday, November 1, 2019. As previously noted, this transmittal letter and your responses, as well as the responses from the other witnesses appearing at the hearing, will all be included in the hearing record. Your responses should be transmitted by email in the Word document provided with this letter to Benjamin Tabor with the Committee staff (benjamin.tabor@mail.house.gov). A paper copy of your responses is not required. Using the Word document provided for submitting your responses will also help maintain the proper format for incorporating your answers into the hearing record.

Dr. Anne Schuchat
Page 2

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have other questions, please contact Mr. Tabor at (202) 225-2927.

Sincerely,



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman

Attachment

cc: Hon. Greg Walden, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
Hon. Diana DeGette, Chair, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Hon. Brett Guthrie, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

**Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations**

**Hearing on
“Sounding the Alarm: The Public Health Threats of E-Cigarettes”**

September 25, 2019

**Dr. Anne Schuchat (RADM, USPHS, RET), Principal Deputy Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

The Honorable Frank Pallone (D-NJ)

1. Over 3.6 million middle and high school students reported using e-cigarettes in 2018. This figure is beyond alarming, and represents a preventable public health failure, the likes of which we haven't seen since the height of youth smoking in the mid-1990s. We are now going to have to confront the fact that millions of young people in America will likely need help if they are going to quit using these products.
 - a. As we try to combat youth use of e-cigarettes, what have we learned regarding youth smoking in the past that might be helpful in our current efforts—are there similarities to smoking cessation efforts among young people that can be applied to vaping cessation interventions?
 - b. Does preventing youth use of e-cigarettes and developing cessation interventions for young people already addicted to e-cigarettes pose unique challenges that differ from tradition cigarettes?
 - c. What research and other activities is ongoing or planned to develop evidence-based interventions to help young people avoid nicotine addiction, not transition to combustible cigarettes, and ultimately quit e-cigarette use?
2. You stated in your testimony that our public health collection and reporting systems are [quote] “antiquated and fragmented.”
 - a. How does this concern and other technological or infrastructure concerns affect the ongoing vaping lung illness outbreak investigation efforts?
 - b. What types of investments would aid in expediting this and similar public health investigations?

The Honorable Diana DeGette (D-CO)

1. A 2016 Surgeon General report stated that young people may be trying e-cigarette products based on the belief that e-cigarettes are less harmful than other tobacco products. However, a single e-cigarette pod is comparable to a pack of combustible cigarettes. What are some potential health consequences of higher concentrations of nicotine that are present in some e-cigarette products?
2. We know without question that long-term use of conventional cigarettes is extremely dangerous and has serious adverse medical risks. Decades of prevention efforts have been devoted to driving the smoking rate down among youth to current day historic lows.
 - a. In addition to a quarter of youth risking nicotine addiction due to their use of e-cigarettes, is there evidence pointing to reasons to be concerned about vaping being an on-ramp for young people to transition to conventional cigarette use?
 - b. Are the youth who are using e-cigarettes ones that would have started smoking regardless?

The Honorable Brett Guthrie (R-KY)

1. Once a provider or state collects a sample, where are the samples that are collected sent for testing?
 - a. How many samples have been received for testing to date?
 - b. How many of those samples have been tested and what are they being tested for?
 - c. Has the CDC or FDA requested samples from commercial e-cigarette manufacturers to compare to those collected in the investigation?
 - d. How do the samples compare? Are you finding that the samples are the same, or are commercial samples being modified after purchase?
 - e. Can you determine from the samples provided how many are counterfeit products?
 - f. What additional information or samples would you need to determine whether the samples involved in the investigation are counterfeit?
2. In addition to analyzing the vaping liquid, do CDC and FDA investigators also receive and examine the vaping or e-cigarette device itself?
 - a. Have investigators found modified e-cigarette or vaping devices in any of the outbreak cases? If so, how many cases?

- b. Are most of the devices closed system products or open system products?
 - c. Are you at least receiving the devices? Why not also collect and examine the devices themselves to look for commonalities?
3. What does scientific research show about the effects of nicotine on the adolescent brain? What is the effect of nicotine delivered by e-cigarettes as compared to combustible cigarettes?

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess (R-TX)

1. The CDC has recommended that the public consider refraining from using e-cigarette or vaping products until more is known about the health risks and causes. What is the CDC doing to ensure that the states are properly reporting lung illness associated with the use of e-cigarette products so that it can advise the public?
2. In light of the fact that some of the causes of these lung illnesses associated with the use of e-cigarettes has yet to be fully understood, can you explain how the CDC will evaluate topics such as the type of products are causing harm and where those products are being purchased?