

Vaping continues to be popular among children and youth in Middlesex-London. Talking to your child about vaping is one of the best ways to keep them vape-free.



In this Resource:

- *Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017*
- Fines under the *SFOA, 2017*

Did you know...

Your student can get charged for vaping on school property. Tobacco Enforcement Officers support schools by enforcing the Smoke Free Ontario Act.

Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017

The *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017* prohibits the smoking of tobacco, the use of electronic cigarettes to vape any substance, and the smoking of cannabis in enclosed workplaces and enclosed public places, as well as other designated places in Ontario which includes schools.

Smoking and vaping are **prohibited** inside public and private schools, including on the grounds associated with the school, and on **public areas** within **20 metres** of any point on the perimeter of the grounds of the school. It is also illegal to sell or supply tobacco or vapour products to anyone under the age of 19. The age of the supplier or the ownership of the product is irrelevant; if the receiver of the tobacco or vapour product is under the age of 19, the provider is guilty of an offence.

Inspectors from the Middlesex-London Health Unit enforce this law and persons found to be in violation of the *Act* can be subject to the following fines:

- Smoking or vaping within a prohibited area = **\$305**
- Selling or supplying vapour/tobacco products (e-cigarettes or e-juice) to anyone under the age of 19 = **\$490**
- Guilty of both smoking or vaping and supplying to a person under the age of 19 years = total fines of **\$795**

Not only can Inspectors issue charges based on their observations, but also school staff who observe an infraction can submit a report of offence to the Middlesex-London Health Unit outlining the offence(s). Inspectors will review the report of offence and issue warnings and charges based on the details provided within the report.

Do you have children under the age of 16?

Persons violating the *Act* who are **under the age of 16** are considered a “young person” under the *Provincial Offences Act*. A young person caught violating the *Act* may be served a **summons** to attend Youth Justice Court with their parent/legal guardian.

What can parents and guardians do if these devices are found?

Parents and other caring adults play an important role in helping children and youth make decisions about vaping. You may not believe it, but teenaged youth say that parents are the biggest influence in their lives.

Check out www.NotanExperiment.ca/Parents for information on how to talk with your youth about vaping.

For more information and support, please contact your health care provider, your school’s public health nurse or go the website:

<https://www.healthunit.com/tobacco>

Sources:

Middlesex London Health Unit. (2018). *Tobacco & Vapour Products – The Law*. Retrieved from: <https://www.healthunit.com/tobacco-and-the-law>

Province of Ontario. (2022). *Smoke Free Ontario Act, 2017*. Retrieved from: https://www.ontario.ca/laws/docs/180268_e.doc

