

New York moves to enact statewide flavored e-cig ban

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In this April 23, 2014 file photo, a man smokes an electronic cigarette in Chicago. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo says he's directing state health officials to ban the sale of flavored e-cigarettes, citing the risk of young people getting addicted to nicotine. The Democrat announced Sunday, Sept. 15, 2019, that the state health commissioner would be making a recommendation this week to the state Public Health and Health Planning Council. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh, File)

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo is pushing to enact a statewide ban on the sale of flavored e-cigarettes amid growing health concerns connected to vaping, especially among young people.

The Democrat announced Sunday that the state health commissioner would be making a recommendation this week to the state Public Health and Health Planning Council. The council can issue emergency regulations that would go into effect as soon as they are voted on and start being enforced in as soon as two weeks, following a short grace period for retailers, officials said.

In announcing the action, Cuomo sharply criticized the flavors that are for sale, like bubble gum and cotton candy.

"These are obviously targeted to young people and highly effective at targeting young people," he said.

The ban would not impact tobacco- and menthol-flavored e-cigarettes, but Cuomo said the Department of Health would continue evaluating and that could change.

Cuomo signed legislation earlier this year raising the statewide smoking age to 21, and earlier this month signed a mandate that requires state anti-tobacco campaigns to also include vaping.

Vaping is also under a federal spotlight , as [health authorities](#) look into hundreds of breathing illnesses reported in people who have used e-cigarettes and other vaping devices.



In this Sept. 9, 2019 file photo, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo speaks at a news conference about vaping and health concerns in New York. Cuomo says he's directing state health officials to ban the sale of flavored e-cigarettes, citing the risk of young people getting addicted to nicotine. The Democrat announced Sunday, Sept. 15 that the state health commissioner would be making a recommendation this week to the state Public Health and Health Planning Council. (AP Photo/Seth Wenig, File)



In this Jan. 29, 2019 file photo, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo holds a news conference in the Red Room at the state Capitol in Albany, N.Y. Cuomo says he's directing state health officials to ban the sale of flavored e-cigarettes, citing the risk of young people getting addicted to nicotine. The Democrat announced Sunday, Sept. 15 that the state health commissioner would be making a recommendation this week to the state Public Health and Health Planning Council. (AP Photo/Hans Pennink, File)

In his first public comments on vaping, President Donald Trump proposed a similar federal ban last week.

The FDA has been able to ban [vaping](#) flavors since 2016, but hasn't

taken the step, with officials looking into whether [flavors](#) could help cigarette smokers to quit.

The industry has spent a lot of money in states around the country to lobby against state-level flavored [e-cigarette](#) bans, in states including Hawaii, California, Maine and Connecticut.

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer earlier this month ordered that state's [health](#) department to come out with emergency rules to prohibit flavored e-cigarette sales.

But in response to Trump's federal proposal, the biggest player in the industry, Juul Labs Inc., said it agreed with "category-wide action" on the flavored products, and would comply with a final FDA policy.

Juul did not immediately respond to requests for comment on New York's latest action.

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