

To support on a TOTAL BAN on E-cigarettes and heat-not-burn tobacco products

The Hong Kong Institute of Allergy would like to express its grave concerns on some recent local campaigns which attempted to mislead the public in supporting the legislative "regulation" of electronic cigarettes, heat-not-burn and other new tobacco products, instead of a total ban that was earlier proposed by our Government.

These products contain a wide variety of harmful chemicals which would impose deleterious effects to the human body, particularly with prolonged exposure from a young age. Also, exposure of such products had been associated with increased prevalence of asthma and chronic bronchitis. Moreover, exposure to these products in early life would induce the younger generation to earlier use of traditional tobacco cigarette smoking, and to be exposed to the numerous well-known health risks. Last but not least, inhalation of such products, which contain a myriad spectrum of chemicals, could potentially lead to severe and potentially fatal allergic reactions in susceptible individuals.

Examples in other countries have demonstrated that mere legislative regulation would not be able to stop such products, usually packaged as attractive and trendy products, to spread in the communities. As such, our Institute firmly concur and support the earlier proposal by the Government in having a TOTAL BAN (instead of "regulation") on the sales and use of all such products by legislation in order to safeguard the health of the public.

香港過敏科醫學會