

Noble High School

ENDS Presentation and Follow-up Project

Partners for Healthier Communities' Tobacco Prevention Coordinator partnered with MSAD 60 Health Program to successfully present electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS) information for a culminating youth project.

THE NEED

Students experienced an unprecedented school year. As many school systems were continuing to adapt, often overwhelmed with the ever-changing landscape, much of the focus on youth prevention efforts were limited. Guests were not allowed within schools of the York County service area, and therefore limited external prevention efforts for students throughout the County.

Due to such, vaping education, school collaboration, and student connection was left to a virtual setting. In hopes of reaching students' needs, and sustaining school partnerships, York County Coordinators shifted education to a virtual platform.

INTERVENTION

Throughout the school year, York County Coordinator and Noble High School's health teacher worked together to schedule ENDS presentations to be shared with all eighth grade students. York County Coordinator shared many virtual presentations with all students, which were interactive in that students were able to ask questions and participate throughout.

Once the presentations were completed, the health teacher had each student send him one question to ask, or students were able to each ask a question themselves.

This allowed students to freely ask any question that they were curious about, with anonymity, if more comfortable.

In the days following the presentation, the health teacher asked for students to complete an assignment where they wrote a letter to their younger sibling, or a younger friend, explaining the hazards of vaping and the importance of being aware of the dangers associated.

RESULTS

Once the assignment was completed, the health teacher shared many of the letters with York County Coordinator. Not only were the letters an important reminder of the impact that vaping education has on young students, but also a great gauge of the information that students had taken away from the presentations.

Within the letters, some students said:

“**“And you might be thinking “I’m a kid, why am I getting this letter, I can’t buy stuff anyway.” But that is exactly why I am writing you this letter. Because you are a kid. And the companies want you to buy from them as a kid, so you can keep buying from them when you are an adult as well, or they can get you addicted to cigarettes.**”

“These companies make products that look like food and drinks you love just to get your attention.”

“If you or a friend is addicted to vaping or already text MAINE it this number 88709 to help you quit.”

– Noble eighth grade students

SUSTAINABILITY

York County Coordinators will continue to offer and support vaping education to students throughout the service area. With a continuously adapting school environment, the tobacco prevention team will continue to offer virtual presentations, with hopes of returning to in person education and collaboration in the coming school year.