



Smoking, Vaping and COVID-19

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Message from the Guest Editors

The COVID-19 pandemic has had widespread effects. Restrictions on social and occupational activities have dramatically altered daily routines; retailers have been restricted; and personal experiences with isolation, illness, and economic effects have led to uncertainty, immense stress, and grief. While prior evidence indicates smoking is associated with a greater risk of developing respiratory illness and a more difficult time recovering from respiratory illness effects, initial reports (non-peer-reviewed) analyzing data from China indicate tobacco smoking may be associated with decreased risk of COVID-19 severity. Other studies, peer-reviewed, indicate worse outcomes among individuals with co-occurring disorders such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), for which the prevailing risk factor is chronic tobacco smoking. In the months just prior to COVID-19, EVALI (e-cigarette or vaping product use associated lung injury) raised national attention and concern about nicotine and cannabis vaping effects on respiratory function, morbidity, and mortality.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing the environmental and public health challenges requires engagement and collaboration among clinicians and public health researchers. Scientific discoveries and advances in this research field play a critical role in providing a rational basis for informed decision-making toward control and prevention of human diseases, especially the illnesses that are induced from environmental exposure to health hazards.

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