



**Statement from the British Paediatric Respiratory  
Society Supporting the Royal College of  
Paediatrics and Child Health's Call for an Outright  
Ban on Disposable E-cigarettes.  
(31<sup>st</sup> May 2023)**

The British Paediatric Respiratory Society (BPRS) stands firmly in support of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health's (RCPCH) call for an outright ban on disposable e-cigarettes. As an organisation dedicated to the health and well-being of children, we share the concerns raised by the RCPCH regarding the disproportionate use of disposable e-cigarette products among children and young people, as well as their detrimental impact on the environment.

The alarming data from NHS Digital and ASH England, which highlights the increasing prevalence of e-cigarette use among young individuals, is deeply concerning. E-cigarettes are not risk-free, and their potential to be as addictive, if not more so than traditional cigarettes, poses a significant threat to the health of future generations. As an organisation with a longstanding commitment to respiratory health, the BPRS acknowledges that smoking remains the leading cause of preventable illness and disease in the UK. While significant research and data exist on the population-level effects of cigarette use, the same cannot be said for widespread e-cigarette use. The chemicals within these products are directly harmful to the lungs and the full effects of these toxicities are unlikely to be known for many years. By the time the full adverse effects are apparent it will be too late to reverse respiratory complications.

In addition to the potential health issues, the environmental impact of disposable e-cigarettes cannot be ignored. The staggering number of these products being discarded weekly in the UK, coupled with the adverse effects of their disposal on ecosystems and resources, demands immediate attention. The BPRS acknowledges the serious environmental consequences associated with disposable e-cigarettes, including the depletion of limited resources and contamination of soil and water.

The BPRS urges the UK Government to prioritize the health of our children and the preservation of the environment by heeding the call for an outright ban on disposable e-cigarettes.