Youth vapor product use is at epidemic levels

- **1 in 4 high school seniors report vaping** in the past 30 days.
- **10th grade use increased by 82%** between 2016 and 2018.
- **Nicotine is the most common** substance used when vaping.
- **Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual (LGB) youth have significantly higher rates of vapor use rates** than heterosexual youth.

### Popular vapor products and concerns
- Most popular vapor products are pod-based units like JUUL that contain extremely high levels of nicotine; one JUUL pod has as much nicotine as a pack of 20 cigarettes.
- Virtually all e-cigarette products contain nicotine and emit numerous potentially toxic substances (flavors and heavy metals).
- Youth are especially vulnerable to the harmful and addictive effects of nicotine; early nicotine addiction can harm brain development and nerve cell functioning.
- Growing number of studies show that youth e-cigarette use may lead to smoking combustible tobacco.
- Most youth use vapor products because of the availability of flavors and the belief that vaping is harmless.

### State law prohibits local policy
State laws for **tobacco** and **vapor products** include strong preemptive language that prohibits local jurisdictions from imposing retail license requirements for selling tobacco or vapor products and prohibits regulation of product promotions and sales at retail locations.

www.kingcounty.gov/tobacco
Data are from the Health Youth Survey

September 11, 2019