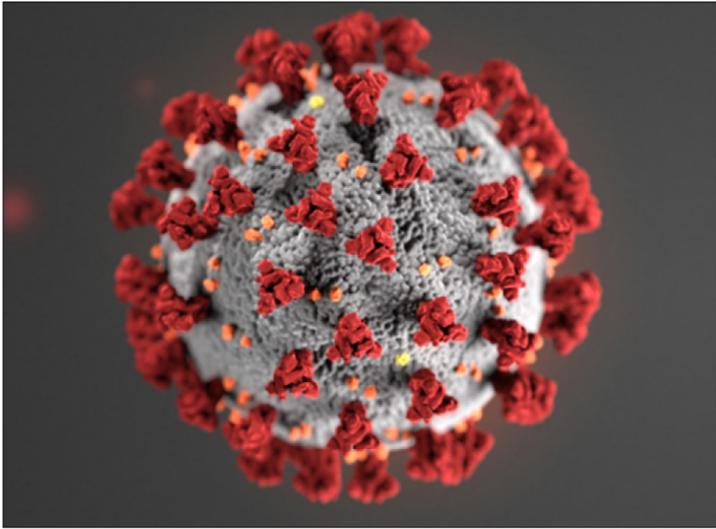


IUSD Prepares Coronavirus Response

District to release information Monday following meeting of school principals



CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

District resources regarding the coronavirus and its effects on schools can be found at <https://iUSD.org/covid-19-resource-page>.

By **TANVI BARGAJE**
and **CAITLYN L.J. KIM**
Staff Writers

IUSD officials are developing emergency measures to be implemented in the event of an outbreak of coronavirus in the local Irvine area.

IUSD Superintendent **Terry Walker** raised the possibility of switching the district's students to Emergency Distance Learning (EDL), or online learning if an emergency school shutdown were to occur due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, more commonly known as the coronavirus, in an email sent to members of the district on February 27. A follow-up email providing more updated information was released on March 10.

“Our planning efforts are geared toward a wide range of options for safely serving students that could include Blended and/or online learning in the event of an emergency,” Walker said in his email. “IUSD will

continue to develop plans, as part of our normal preparedness efforts, and our staff will account for any new developments related to COVID-19.” UHS administration has also continued to develop their response to a potential district-wide shutdown, convening a meeting with Principal **Kevin Astor**, the vice principals, and department heads in attendance to discuss the school's EDL plan on March 11.

Any official news regarding a switch to EDL or the likelihood of a district shutdown will come through a district-wide announcement. More information will be published through the district website on Monday, which can be found at <https://iUSD.org/covid-19-resource-page>.

“We are keeping the possible effects of COVID-19 in the back of our minds, along with planning for the possibility of moving classes online through Emergency Distance Learning. EDL is the procedure for all emergency situations, not just limited to COVID-19,” Assistant Principal **Matt Pate** said.

Orange County health officials had declared the coronavirus a health emergency on March 10. The WHO declared the coronavirus to be a pandemic on March 11, signifying that a global outbreak of the disease had occurred.

According to the website of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), schools should determine if, when, and for how long childcare programs or schools may need to be dismissed in the case of a community outbreak. If schools are dismissed they are advised to temporarily cancel extracurricular group activities and large events, discourage students and staff from gathering or socializing anywhere, ensure continuity of education, ensure continuity of meal programs, and consider alternatives for providing essential medical and social services for students.

The Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) requires that anyone who has been to China in the last fourteen days be quarantined and monitored by public health officials, including students- who should be excused from school during that time.

There are two active cases of coronavirus in Orange County, including three possible cases that are undergoing investigation according to Santa Ana public health officials. In California there have been 177 cases of coronavirus, with three deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering, while in the U.S. there have been a total of 1,209 cases and thirty-seven deaths reported by local and state agencies. Neighboring college UC Irvine has made the switch to online classes, and has recommended that its staff work from home if possible.

President Donald Trump addressed the nation from the Oval Office on March 11, announcing the government would temporarily suspend travel to Europe, and provide financial support for small businesses and individuals affected by the virus.

IUSD health guidelines recommend that students should stay home when they are sick, cover their mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing, wash their hands when necessary, and avoid people who are already sick.

Astor stressed that the administration did not want to promote panic or speculation among the student body.

“It is one of those tough situations,” Astor said.

Reports of Vaping Deaths Change Opinions

New city policies will attempt to tackle the nationwide vaping youth problem

By **KRUTIK PATEL**
Staff Writer

Student usage and opinion regarding vaping has shifted from what it was two years ago due to federal government investigation and research.

Last year, reports of e-cigarette, or vaping, product use-associated lung injury (EVALI) from the CDC prompted government investigation and national press coverage, bringing attention to the rise in student vaping and the dangers of e-cigarettes.

As of February 4, 2,758 cases of EVALI have been reported to the CDC, with sixty-four confirmed deaths. 15% of the confirmed cases were under eighteen.

According to an anonymous survey of 135 students conducted by the Sword and

Shield, 71% say that because of the recent deaths and injuries associated with vapes, they are less likely to vape.

As a result of the reports of these vaping-related injuries, some students, such as junior **Kimia Javaherneshan**, are concerned for their peers who continue to vape.

“I’m less likely to vape because I know people with nicotine addiction and I see how much it takes over their lives,” Javaherneshan said. “I’m so concerned for all of my friends who suffer from this issue and especially because of all of the injuries and deaths I’m even more worried.”

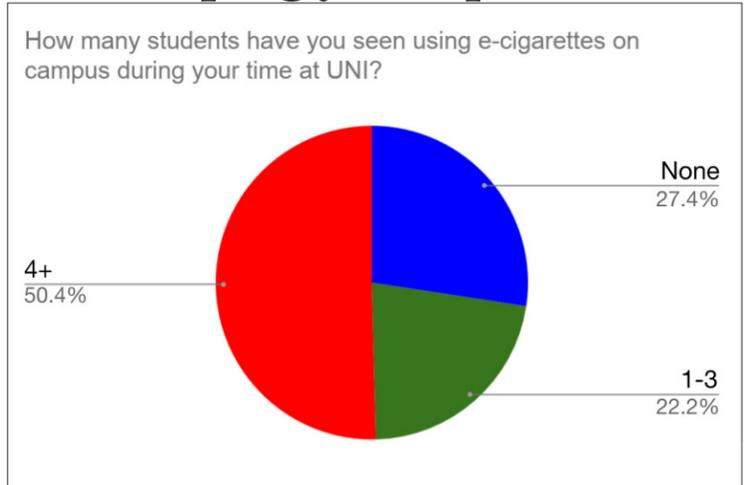
The survey also asked students to rate the severity of the drug use and vaping issue on campus on a scale of 1-5, with one being not a problem and five being a severe problem. 66.7% of students from this

year’s survey, compared with 74.2% of respondents from the 2018 survey, rated the issue of vaping a 3 or higher.

On the other hand, 73% of students have seen other students using e-cigarettes on campus, an increase from 2018, where 66% of students had seen others experimenting with any kind of drug on campus.

“I notice vaping in the girls’ bathroom pretty frequently,” senior **Ilana Cohen** said. “I’d first smell a strong chemical odor and then see multiple people crowded into the larger stalls.”

Federal and California state law prohibits the sale or use of any tobacco products, which include products that contain nicotine such as some electronic cigarettes, to persons under 21 years of age. However, minors are allowed to possess nicotine-free vaporizing



A vast majority of Uni students (72.6%) have witnessed at least one instance of e-cigarette use during school hours

devices. In addition to these federal and state laws, over sixty California cities and counties have already implemented restrictions on the sale and use of flavored e-cigarettes in response to the increases in EVALI cases and incidences of student vaping nationwide,

with San Francisco having already implemented a full ban on the sale of e-cigarettes (February 6).

Following this trend, Irvine City Council has also recently acted to reduce youth vaping by drafting an ordinance that gives the Irvine Police Department the authority to

Ms. Ozoa to Retire After 18 Years at Uni *ERWC and Writing Across Genres to be continued by different teachers*

By **CARLY ZHOU**
Staff Writer

Ms. Teresa Ozoa, an English teacher who has been part of the UHS family since 2001, will be celebrating her last year teaching this year.

She is currently teaching ERWC (Expository Reading & Writing Course) and Writing Across Genres. Several teachers have been trained in ERWC and have been shadowing her course, and are prepared to take over these sections as she retires.

In her 18 years at UHS, Ozoa has taught a variety of English courses.

“In order from 9th to 12th grade, I have taught English 2CP and English 2H (former level lead), English 3CP (former level lead) and AP Lang, Contemporary Studies in Language and Lit (a course I created primarily as an elective for English learners), Writing Across the Genres (a course I created as a core junior CP class with no British lit), English 4CP and ERWC,” Ozoa said.

Ozoa is also well-known across campus for her proficiency with technology. She teaches tech workshops reg-

ularly for the induction program that new teachers must go through, and is a Google Certified Innovator that has presented at EdTech conferences.

“[Ozoa has] always been on the cutting edge of bringing in new technology, new aspects of technology and supporting other teachers,” ELD Coordinator **Ms. Freya Remmer** said.

In an email to UHS staff, Ozoa discussed her plans for retirement.

“I am looking forward with great anticipation to being able to travel with my husband,” Ozoa said. “It’s bittersweet because I really enjoy what I do at Uni. I love the students, the staff is incredible. So I know it’ll be a big change and I’ll miss it a lot.”

Ozoa’s colleagues remember her as a valued friend and indispensable colleague during her time at UHS.

“Having personally become friends with Mrs. Ozoa, she’s a very delightful person - like she always goes to anime conventions, which is just fun hearing about it and you know enjoying her outside life is very vivacious and exciting,” Remmer said. “So I’ll miss hearing about some of that and I’ll keep up with her on Facebook.”

Students view Ozoa as an approachable and open-minded teacher, as someone who they could rely on and always nurtured learning.

“[I will miss] her friendly and nice personality,” senior **Aryn Press** said. “She’s really understanding and always willing to have a conversation.”

“I really appreciate how she was an abstract thinker,” senior **Lily Krongold**, a student of Ozoa this year, said. “She always encouraged us to think outside the box and critically about different topics.”

One student in her ERWC class, senior **Branton Lucas**, recalls her unique teaching style as a memorable and devoted educator.

“She’s a bright inspiring woman. She’s helped me develop a 3D perspective when it comes to making an assumption. Every single day for two years we as a class would work on this warm up named ‘Baby Animal’. At first I was naive and confused but slowly I trusted it and saw what it helped me with,” Lucas said. “I can’t thank her enough for that silly but effective way of learning.”

Her students, colleagues, and friends wish her the best in her future endeavors.

“Mrs. Ozoa has been a colleague and friend for almost



Students, faculty, and staff have expressed their gratitude towards Mrs. Ozoa ahead of her retirement at the end of the school year.

two decades to me,” English goes far because I know for teacher **Ms. Christine King**, a fact she has all the tools to do anything in this lifetime. Ozoa, said. “I wish for her a long and healthy retirement when she reads this or if she reads this I would like to let spending time with her own her know that she’s made family after years of spending time with her Uni fam- in my life, I would’ve never known in a million years it will certainly miss her.” was her,” Lucas said. “I’m

“I hope whatever she has in store for the future she blessed and honored to say that she was my teacher.”

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Government Reports of Vaping Deaths Change Student Opinions *Continued from front page*

partment the ability to confiscate flavored tobacco products from minors.

“The negative impacts as reported in 1,888 cases of electronic nicotine delivery systems related-lung illnesses and deaths could also be experienced in the City if flavored tobacco products ... were allowed to continue without proper regulations in place”, the ordinance stated. “It is necessary to adopt regulations of the use of flavored tobacco products to protect the public against potential negative health, safety [sic], and welfare impacts.”

Previously, Irvine law only prohibited the sale of flavored tobacco products; however, with this ordinance, the use of flavored tobacco products by minors is prohibited, and thus can be enforced through confiscation.

For first time offenders, the ordinance has also created an option for the offender to participate in a City-approved educational tobacco diversion program, which upon completion will dismiss the infrac-

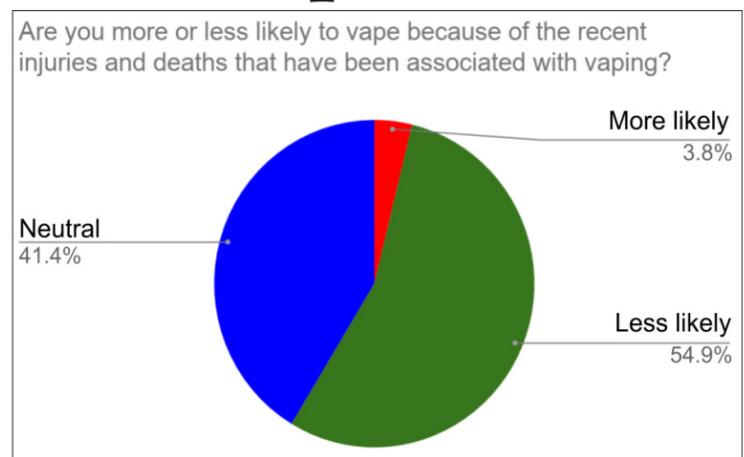
tion.

Council Member **Ms. Farrah Khan**, who along with Mayor Pro Tempore Anthony Kuo requested that Irvine City Council draft the ordinance, said that part of this ordinance was to help kids make the right choices.

“We really want to use this as a way to educate our youth about the dangers of vaping and we hope that we can get them to make the right decisions,” Khan said.

The ordinance does not give the IPD power to confiscate flavored tobacco products from minors on school grounds because minors at school are under the administration’s jurisdiction. However, consequences for vaping at UHS include a rehabilitation program similar to that the ordinance proposes, the IUSD Tobacco Cessation Program.

“For your first offense we get you in a tobacco awareness program which is once a month, one day a week, four hours total,” Vice Principal **Mr. Kris Kough** said. “Our consequences appear to be



Most UHS students’ opinions (54.9%) have been affected by the recent dangerous health effects vaping has been found to cause.

parallel.”

Other consequences, according to the Trojan Code of Conduct, include parent contact, a mark on the student’s permanent record, referral to the IPD, and a 3-day suspension for subsequent offenses.

Some students agree with the ordinance, such as junior **Zaman Merchant**.

“I agree on there being [an option of taking] a remediation course because it’s going to give people a second chance to rethink their actions,” Merchant said.

This ordinance was drafted

on January 28, and will be voted on for a second time on an unspecified date.

The vaping epidemic and EVALI cases have also prompted rapid responses from the federal government.

On December 20, the government passed a law prohibiting the sale of tobacco and e-cigarettes to anyone under 21 in order to curb e-cigarette use, and on February 6, a nationwide ban on flavored e-cigarette products took effect, with all cartridge and pod flavors being banned except for menthol and tobacco.