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Why the vaping lung illness crisis is exploding now, according to Boston doctors

By Naomi Martin Globe Staff, September 17, 2019, 8:32 p.m.



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The teenagers had fevers, chest pain, and struggled to breathe. Many coughed up mucus or blood. Some felt nauseous and vomited.

The teens were among the seven patients Boston Children's Hospital has seen over the past year and a half believed to be suffering from vaping-related lung illness that has recently roiled the country, leaving seven dead and 380 hospitalized.

Suspecting infection, doctors treated the teens with antibiotics, but puzzlingly, symptoms persisted and tests were negative. All the patients needed respiratory support, from oxygen to breathing tubes in the intensive-care unit.

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