Raising the minimum legal sales age from 18 to 21 for the sale of e-cigarettes and unapproved nicotine delivery products

King County Board of Health Meeting November 19, 2020 Scott Neal, Tobacco Prevention Program Manager, Public Health – Seattle & King County

Delays youth initiation and prevents use

- Nearly all tobacco product use begins during adolescence (95% start smoking by age 21)
- 1 in 5 (20.6%) high school seniors in KC report vaping
- Minors often cite social sources such as older siblings and peers as their most common source of access
- Prevents high school seniors from legally purchasing product

Aligns with state & federal laws



March 2019: WA state legislature adopts T/21 law, making 21 the new minimum legal age for tobacco and vapor products (effective Jan. 1 2020)



December 20, 2019: U.S. Congress enacted legislation making 21 the federal minimum age for sale of tobacco products (includes nicotine containing vapor products)

Proposed amendment

Increases the legal age to sell electronic smoking devices and unapproved nicotine delivery products in King County to 21 years of age

Electronic smoking devices (vapor products)



Unapproved nicotine delivery product



QUESTIONS?

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