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## “DANKing”, the frightening trend that’s making people sick!

Consumers are “DANKing”. Danking is the act of inhaling vapor from illicit street **carts** (cartridges) that contain THC or synthetic THC. They buy the carts from black market dealers and then use an **e-joint** to vaporize the concentrates and inhale the vapor to get high. An e-joint is a battery operated device that heats a coil and causes the concentrate to heat up and change to vapor. The devices have also been called vape pens. The equipment looks very similar to some e-cigarettes used by smokers to quit smoking. Many call the act of inhaling the vapor from an e-joint or an e-cig “vaping”, a confusing term that can mean more than one thing.

Illicit drug manufacturers take THC or Synthetic THC concentrates, cut them with questionable substances, fill the carts and sell them on the black market. Dank Vapes is a “brand” with no real origins. The packaging is sold [online](#) on sites like [ebay](#), Amazon, [Wish](#), and [Alibaba](#). Cheap Cartridges of questionable quality and materials are usually bought from China. The manufacturers fill the carts and then put them in the Dank Vapes packaging. There are other fake brands on the market. Dank is one of the more well known. The consumer believes they are buying a legitimate brand and assume the products are safe.

The first reports of people who have fallen ill started in the Midwest at the end of July and have since spread around the country. Over 400 illnesses and 5 deaths have been reported by medical and health authorities. Most of the victims have admitted to DANKing black market THC.

On September 5, 2019 the [NY Department of Health](#) updated their public health warning. The lab results of the black market cannabis carts they tested showed that the concentrates had Vitamin E acetate (also known as tocopherol acetate). They advise that no one obtain black market products and use them in an e-joint or e-cig. The next day the [FDA](#) issued an advisory to all Americans to avoid the use of THC concentrates, while the cause of these illnesses and deaths is being investigated. Victims range from teenagers to Senior Citizens.



Source: NY Department of Health

Pictured: Carts (Cartridges) Fake Branding, and an e-joint

If you have been “DANKing” and you are experiencing coughing, shortness of breath, fatigue, chest pains, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, please seek IMMEDIATE medical attention. Many victims have ended up in the ICU on ventilators. Don’t assume you have a “cold” and try to wait it out. Be honest with medical professionals and tell them what you’ve danked. If possible, give the item to health professionals (even if it’s an illegal item), so these products can be tested to determine if the same thing is the source of these mystery illnesses.