
Re: Fw: Board of Health Request - Kratom / Nicotine

From Provos, Sara <SProvos@yarmouth.ma.us>

Date Thu 12/4/2025 10:45 AM

To Marc Smith <smithm@dy-regional.k12.ma.us>

Cc Niederberger, Riley <RNiederberger@yarmouth.ma.us>; Grylls, Mark <mgrylls@yarmouth.ma.us>; Lewis, Barry <BLewis@yarmouth.ma.us>

Thank you for getting back to me Marc.

Someone from the Board of Health will reach out once this item is added to an upcoming agenda (probably after the New Year). It may be helpful to have someone come in to speak on this issue—either you or perhaps a guidance counselor or principal from one of the schools—to provide insight into the issues and impacts the schools are seeing related to nicotine product use. It would also be useful to share an update on the steps the schools are taking to help keep the environment safer (such as the vape detectors).

We will be in touch. Thank you again.

Have a wonderful Holiday!

Sara

Sara Provos
Town of Yarmouth
Health Department
508-398-2231 ext. 1241



From: Marc Smith <smithm@dy-regional.k12.ma.us>

Sent: Thursday, December 04, 2025 10:34 AM

To: Provos, Sara <SProvos@yarmouth.ma.us>

Cc: Niederberger, Riley <RNiederberger@yarmouth.ma.us>; Grylls, Mark <mgrylls@yarmouth.ma.us>; Lewis, Barry <BLewis@yarmouth.ma.us>

Subject: Re: Fw: Board of Health Request - Kratom / Nicotine

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Sara,

Thank you for reaching out. In short, yes. Vaping is a significant problem. I am sure I could get you specific data depending upon what you are looking for. We just installed vape detectors in our high school this year, so that is where we have the most accurate information; however, the problem likely starts at a younger age.

Best,

Marc

On Wed, Dec 3, 2025 at 12:13 PM Provos, Sara <SProvos@yarmouth.ma.us> wrote:

Good afternoon,

I wanted to share that I recently sent the message below to Police and Fire. However, I thought it would also be important to reach out to you to see whether you have any information you (or a representative from the schools) would like to provide for the Board of Health to review or consider as they begin discussions regarding the health issues that have been brought to their attention as it relates to Kratom and nicotine products.

Thank you, and please let me know if you have any questions or insights to add.

Sara

Sara Provos
Town of Yarmouth
Health Department
508-398-2231 ext. 1241



From: Provos, Sara <SProvos@yarmouth.ma.us>

Sent: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 11:24 AM

To: Lennon, Kevin <KLennon@yarmouth.ma.us>; Arrascue, Enrique <EArrascue@yarmouth.ma.us>; Omalley, Andrew <aomalley@yarmouth.ma.us>; Smith, Scott <ssmith@yarmouth.ma.us>

Cc: Catalano, Annie <ACatalano@yarmouth.ma.us>; Grylls, Mark <mgrylls@yarmouth.ma.us>; Lewis, Barry <BLewis@yarmouth.ma.us>; Niederberger, Riley <RNiederberger@yarmouth.ma.us>; Boskey Hillard <hillard.boskey@gmail.com>

Subject: Board of Health Request - Kratom / Nicotine

Good morning,

Following the Board of Health meeting held on December 1, 2025, the Board is reaching out to both the Police and Fire Departments to gather additional information regarding the use, prevalence, and observed effects of Kratom and nicotine products (including snuff, vaping devices, and nicotine pouches) within the Town of Yarmouth.

As several municipalities have recently implemented regulations governing the sale and use of these substances, the Board is working to evaluate their potential public health and public safety impacts locally. The

topic of Kratom will be discussed in detail at the Board's next meeting on December 15, 2025, and any information your departments can provide prior to that date would be greatly appreciated.

At the December 1 meeting, Robert Collett, Program Director of Cape Cod Regional Tobacco Control at Barnstable County, reported that local school nurses have contacted his office regarding incidents of youth overdosing on high-concentration nicotine pouches. He also noted that Kratom appears to produce effects similar to opioid-type substances and may be contributing to progression to other drug use. Additionally, he referenced several incidents handled by the Bourne Police Department in which individuals using Kratom required medical assistance.

The Board respectfully requests that your department submit any relevant data, reports, or other information related to kratom or nicotine products (that can be shared) so that it may be reviewed in preparation for the upcoming Board of Health meeting.

If you have any questions or need further clarification on the information being requested, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,
Sara

Sara Provos
Town of Yarmouth
Health Department
508-398-2231 ext. 1241



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Marc J. Smith, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
(he/him)
Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District
296 Station Avenue
South Yarmouth, MA 02664
(508) 398-7600

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"Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death" ~ Albert Einstein