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From the Boston Business Journal:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/boston/news/2019/12/06/gov-baker-mystified-by-state-responses-to-vaping.html>

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## Gov. Baker mystified by state response to vaping illnesses



Gov. Charlie Baker

SAM DORAN/STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

By Colin A. Young – State House News Service  
Dec 6, 2019

With his temporary ban on vaping product sales set to end next week, public health officials adopt a new set of vaping rules, Gov. Charlie Baker this week expressed some surprise that other states did not follow suit amid an outbreak of vaping-related illnesses.

After Baker spoke Thursday at the Pri-Med East conference, moderator Domino from the UMass Medical School in Worcester thanked him for his "fantastic" work to address vaping and said it was widely appreciated by the medical community. The audience gave the governor a hearty round of applause.

"I really appreciate your bringing this one up," Baker said. "I've talked a lot about the amount of grief for this, and we've been in a different place than other places around the country, which I actually don't understand. I think we're in the wrong place."

The illnesses, which have been blamed for three deaths in Massachusetts, prompted the Baker administration in September to institute an emergency ban on vaping product sales in the state. That ban, challenged and upheld in court, was set to lift Dec. 24 but Baker announced last week that it would instead expire Dec. 11 as new vaping regulations are put into place by the state Public Health Council.

Though other states have banned the sale of flavored vaping products, Massachusetts went further to ban all vaping products, though that ban was weakened by the courts as it related to medical marijuana products. Baker said Thursday morning that he doesn't get why other states adopted the Massachusetts model.

"I continue to not understand why that hasn't been pursued more at either the federal level or in other states," he said. "I mean, there's an article on the front page of the Boston Globe today that says what we've done in Massachusetts is driving a lot of the sales of these products into other states around us and I don't see how that is good for anybody."

The governor told the Pri-Med conference that he asked Health and Senior Services Secretary Marylou Sudders to bring in a group of doctors to talk about the rash of illnesses and injuries in September. Massachusetts has reported 90 probable or confirmed cases of vaping-related illnesses.

"They all basically said the same thing, which is that vaping, by its nature, is a

has risks associated with it that are not fully understood," he said

operating on a pretty solid foundation of input, guidance and exp from a lot of the folks here in the commonwealth who just said th really big issues with this just generally that aren't appreciated or and may not be for a while, which is why we made the decision v

Domino told Baker that, "as a clinician, it was brave to do what yc and ... it took guts to do what you did."

On Thursday night, the Department of Public Health [posted data indicating that six patients](#) with probable cases of vaping-associated injury reported vaping THC, the psychoactive component of marijuana having purchased the THC at a licensed Massachusetts marijuana retailer. Another 22 patients, including 10 confirmed cases, reported vaping but not purchased at a licensed retailer.

DPH said it cannot make "specific claims about the role of any individual product" and that it cannot independently verify the products and that patients report in interviews with public health officials.

On Friday morning, the Supreme Judicial Court announced that it will take all action in a challenge to Baker's ban -- and has indefinitely postponed oral arguments scheduled for Monday -- because "the defendants' challenge to the emergency regulations that are at issue in this case will be resolved and the emergency declared by the Governor will be terminated, the Commissioner's emergency order," if the Public Health Council approves the new regulations on Wednesday, as is expected.

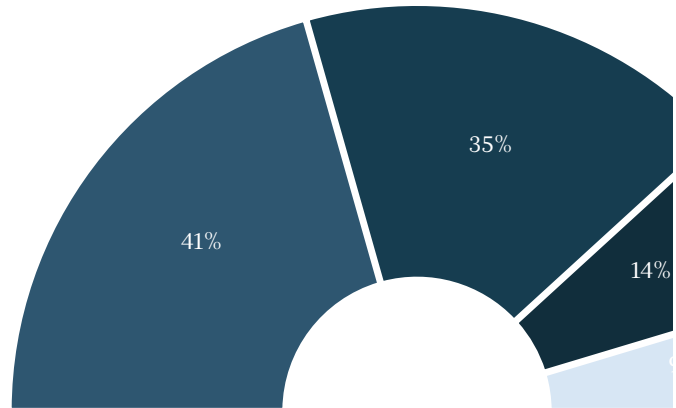
## THE LIST

# Largest Hospitals in Massachusetts

Total 2018 net patient service revenue

Rank	Prior Rank	Hospital/Prior rank (*unranked in 2018)
1	1	Massachusetts General Hospital
2	2	Brigham and Women's Hospital
3	3	UMass Memorial Medical Center
View This List		

## Does your company allow personal tasks, such as holiday shopping, while at work?



**41%**

Yes, use of company technology to do holiday shopping as long as the work gets done.

**35%**

No, so I do my holiday shopping on my own time.

**14%**

No, but what the company doesn't know won't hurt.

**9%**

Yes, as long as we use our own devices, such as a smartphone.

Total number of responses: **304**

*This poll is not a scientific sampling. It offers a quick view of what readers are thinking.*