



# IBVTA Campaigns to keep vape shops open during potential “lockdown”

IBVTA is concerned that closures could result in vapers relapsing to smoking

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With the UK government advising that businesses including pubs, cafes and restaurants shut their doors, vapers have expressed concern about vape store closures, and the IBVTA understands the necessity to keep vape shops open. This concern is well-founded as the closure of vape shops and shutdown of supply of vaping goods could lead to vapers returning to cigarettes.

The IBVTA has written to Public Health Minister, Jo Churchill MP to support this concern and will them to allow vape shops to stay open. Within the letter, the IBVTA outlines the importance of vape shops and the consequence that closures could have.

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*“ Should e-cigarettes, e-liquids and associated accessories not be readily available, a proportion of those vapers will be very tempted to buy a packet of cigarettes to tide them over, and the proportion that are currently using both e-cigarettes and cigarettes will revert entirely to smoking rather than vaping.*

The letter urges the health minister to empathise with vapers and try to understand their situation if vape shops were closed.

*“ Unless one has made the journey of moving from smoking to a less harmful alternative, it can be hard to understand the distress that such a situation can cause to an ex-smoker. Our members are close enough to their customers' experience to understand it completely. More importantly, addiction to combustible tobacco is both extremely harmful, and much easier to move towards than away from.*

The IBVTA concludes by urging the government to ensure vape shops stay open during any potential lockdown.

**“ The IBVTA therefore calls on the UK Government to ensure that dedicated vape stores can remain open during any potential “lockdown” of non-essential retail establishments while the spread of coronavirus and associated illness is brought under control.**

As vapers, we should be proud to have the IBVTA fighting our corner. The IBVTA is governed by vapers who therefore understand the everyday needs of vapers. If we are to come out of the current situation in a strong position, we must do all we can to continue to supply people with necessity items. 67  
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A potential mid-term relapse to smoking during a “lockdown” period could lead to long-term relapse which would result in greater higher smoking prevalence. This could have lasting effects on public health and a drain on the NHS, thus making vaping products a necessity item. Thank you IBVTA for showing your support for both vapers and vape businesses in the UK.

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