

Carrie Lam heeds call for ban on e-cigarettes

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Carrie Lam says she now favours an outright ban on e-cigarettes rather than just regulation. Photo: RTHK

Wendy Wong reports

Hong Kong could soon ban e-cigarettes on the grounds of protecting public health, after Chief Executive Carrie Lam said she agreed with concerns groups that a proposal to regulate the products doesn't go far enough. In her Policy Address on Wednesday, Lam noted that there has been opposition to the regulation plan from various groups in the medical and education sectors.

She said e-cigarettes are often packaged as better substitutes to normal cigarettes, with promotional activities often targeting young people. But the harmful effects of these products may have been underestimated, Lam said.

The Chief Executive said that after weighing the pros and cons of a regulatory approach as opposed to a full ban, she has decided that the government should ban the import, manufacture, sale, distribution and advertisement of e-cigarettes.

She said this is aimed at protecting public health, and that the government will submit proposed amendments to relevant laws within the current legislative session.

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