The coronavirus attacks the lungs, and behaviors that weaken the lungs put individuals at greater risk. The harmful impact of smoking on the lungs is well documented, and there is growing evidence that vaping can harm lung health as well. Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, recently noted, “Because it attacks the lungs, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 could be an especially serious threat to those who smoke tobacco or marijuana or who vape.” The Food and Drug Administration, which regulates e-cigarettes and other tobacco products, has publicly stated, “People who smoke cigarettes may be at increased risk from Covid-19, and may have worse outcomes from Covid-19.”

When you look at the toll the two plagues (tobacco and coronavirus) take on the city, the conclusions are clear. Chicago has two problems severely impacting communities, and they need to ban flavored tobacco products to prevent tobacco use and protect lung health.