



## **BULLETIN 2020-05**

### **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

#### **Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information and Update**

#### **Prevention, Cleaning Recommendations and What You Should Know**

The Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission (MMCC) is providing the following information for patients and licensees regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). COVID-19 is a new respiratory virus first identified in December 2019. Worldwide, COVID-19 has resulted in thousands of infections, causing illness and in some cases death. Cases have spread to countries throughout the world with more cases reported daily. As of March 11, there are nine confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Maryland.

COVID-19 is thought to be able to spread like the cold or flu through:

- Coughing and sneezing, which creates respiratory droplets
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever
- Coughing
- Shortness of breath
- In more severe cases, pneumonia (infection in the lungs)

The vast majority of people recover from this infection. Most people will have mild or moderate symptoms. Older people and those with pre-existing medical conditions have a greater risk for more serious illness. MDH has developed specific recommendations for facilities that serve older adults. You may read the MDH guidance to facilities that serve older people [here](#).

In addition, please visit [MDH's website for novel coronavirus](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information.

The [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) also has extensive information on COVID-19, including [steps to prevent illness](#), [symptoms](#), [recommendations for keeping workplaces safe](#) and [recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting facilities](#).

### **CDC Recommendations**

At this time, the MMCC is recommending dispensaries implement CDC's preventative measures (highlighted below) to reduce the likelihood of spreading COVID-19.

In order to keep the workplace safe, CDC recommends encouraging employees to:

- Practice good hygiene (e.g., stop handshaking, clean hands regularly, cover coughs and sneezes, disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, tables, desks, and handrails regularly, and increase ventilation).
- Consider postponing large meetings or gatherings,
- Limit food sharing, and
- Stay home if they are feeling sick or have a sick family member in their home.

How to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces:

- If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- For disinfection, diluted household bleach solutions, alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective.
- Products with [EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims](#) are expected to be effective against COVID-19 based on data for harder to kill viruses. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).

### **Patient Signature Requirement Suspended Until Further Notice**

COMAR 10.62.30.06B requires a patient or caregiver to sign a receipt for medical cannabis. **Given MDH and CDC recommendations to facilitate social distancing, the MMCC is suspending the patient signature requirement until further notice.**

Please direct any questions to [enforcement.mmcc@maryland.gov](mailto:enforcement.mmcc@maryland.gov).