



BULLETIN: 2020 – 006
Effective Date: March 16, 2020

Licensee Preparation for COVID-19

Linthicum, MD — On March 12, Governor Larry Hogan announced [a series of major actions to protect public health and safety](#) and limit the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Maryland. The Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission (the “Commission”) is providing this bulletin to licensees, certifying health care providers, patients, and caregivers for information and assistance.

On-site Delivery

COMAR 10.62.27.08 requires a license dispensary to dispense medical cannabis in a service area only accessible to qualifying patients and caregivers. In order to reduce the number of individuals accessing the service area, **the Commission will allow dispensaries to deliver medical cannabis to qualifying patients and caregivers in a vehicle parked in the dispensary’s parking lot.** This policy change is in effect until further notice. In order to process onsite deliveries, the dispensary must comply with the standard operating procedure outlined below.

1. Process an online or telephone order according to [COMAR 10.62.30.04C](#), including (i) confirming the individual is a qualifying patient or caregiver and (ii) the amount of medical cannabis requested does not exceed the 30-day supply.
2. Deliver the medical cannabis to a qualifying patient or caregiver only if the patient or caregiver is in a motor vehicle that is parked in the dispensary parking lot.
3. At the point of delivery, verify the identity of the qualifying patient or caregiver according to [COMAR 10.62.30.04A](#).

Important: An onsite delivery does not have to be entered into METRC as a delivery. It can be processed as a point-of-sale transaction.

Suspension of “Deli-style” Sales and “Sniff Jars”

Due to the enhanced risk of spreading coronavirus presented by these practices, the Commission is suspending the sale of medical cannabis through deli-style sales, and the use of sniff jars in dispensaries, effective immediately. Licensed medical cannabis dispensaries may not sell medical cannabis flower product through deli-style transactions or utilize sniff jars until further notice.

Establish Policies to Increase the Physical Distance Among Employees and Between Employees and Others

The Commission urges licensed growers, processors, and dispensaries to consider appropriate mitigating measures to ensure, preserve, and promote public health, including:

- Reviewing the Center for Disease Prevention and Control’s (“CDC”) [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#) and U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (“OSHA”) [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#).
- **Exploring whether you can implement flexible work hours (e.g. staggered shifts) or temporarily reduce the number of employees on-site.**
- Establishing a plan to minimize exposure between employees and also between employees and patients and caregivers. Such plans include how establishments manage lines and queues, the utilization of mobile or order-ahead features and on-site delivery, and the increased frequency of cleaning and sterilization efforts.

The Commission urges licensees to consider, evaluate, and appropriately publicize protocols relative to agent interactions with patients and caregivers.

Dispensary Signage

The Maryland Department of Health has developed helpful signage for businesses to educate employees and the public. The Commission recommends that licensees print and conspicuously display the signs linked below.

- [If You’re Sick Do Not Enter](#)
- [Wash Hands](#)

Commission Activities

Finally, pursuant to [Governor Hogan’s Executive Order](#) issued on March 12, non-essential Commission staff will be working remotely until further notice. Please be advised that it may take longer than usual to receive a response.

Patients, caregivers, and businesses should also be aware that the Commission offices will be closed to the general public during this time. Patients and caregivers needing assistance should use the toll-free helpline or email infoandregistration@maryland.gov and a member of our Quality Assurance team will be able to assist.

We will undertake every effort to ensure there is minimal disruption to program activities while ensuring the safe operation of the Commission.

Please direct any questions regarding this bulletin to enforcement.mmcc@maryland.gov.