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## Bulletin 2020-010

Effective Date: March 23, 2020

# **Medical Cannabis Licensees are Essential Businesses**

## **Among facilities that may remain open**

**Linthicum, MD** (March 23, 2020) – Governor Hogan issued an emergency order today requiring all non-essential businesses in the State to close as of 5:00 PM EST. Only essential businesses – those identified as critical infrastructure sectors by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) – may continue to operate. The CISA identifies 16 critical infrastructure sectors, including health care and public health.

Medical cannabis growers, processors, and dispensaries, and registered independent testing laboratories (collectively “medical cannabis licensees”) are state-licensed health care providers and facilities under the Health-General Article. Maryland’s medical cannabis licensees routinely provide critical medical treatment to more than 95,000 qualifying patients in the State. Therefore, medical cannabis licensees are designated essential businesses and may remain open.

However, medical cannabis licensees must continue to comply with social distancing practices and other mitigation measures recommended by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Specifically, [Bulletin 2020-008](#) notified medical cannabis licensees that failure to implement practices and procedures designed to maintain a distance of six feet or more while on the licensed premises and clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces will constitute a risk to public health and result in suspension of operations. Additionally, medical cannabis licensees are encouraged to continue implementing procedures that allow licensees to serve Maryland patients through delivery and curbside service models designed to limit risk.

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