

Guidance for the Use of Cannabis During the COVID-19 Pandemic

In collaboration with the Oregon Cannabis Commission, the Oregon Health Authority is issuing guidance for the use of cannabis during the COVID-19 pandemic. Following is general guidance for medical and recreational marijuana use.

General guidance



- Limit or avoid smoking or vaping. Smokers of both cigarettes and cannabis are at a higher risk for severe COVID-19 infections.

Smoking and vaping involve hand-to-mouth contact, which has been shown to be a primary means of transmission for the coronavirus. In addition, smoking can damage some of the protective mechanisms of the airways. This allows the virus to gain a foothold and establish an infection. Vaping may or may not be less irritating to the airways. However, evidence is clear that vaping can harm the lungs and reduce the body's ability to fight infections.



- Use non-inhaled forms of cannabis rather than smoking or vaping, such as tinctures, topicals, patches, edibles, capsules or suppositories.
- Avoid sharing joints, pipes, vape pens, bongs, dab rigs or other devices that may increase the risk of person-to-person transmission.
- Reduce or avoid cannabis if you have a respiratory infection. This includes any illness with cough, fever or shortness of breath.



Scientific evidence currently shows that THC can suppress the immune system. This may reduce the body's ability to fight viruses.

- Keep personal cannabis devices clean.
- Be cautious of misinformation, such as claims that cannabis or CBD can help cure or protect against this virus.
- Always maintain at least 6 feet of distance from anyone not in your household. Wear a mask of face covering when this distance cannot be maintained.





Information for medical marijuana patients

- Patients are strongly encouraged to apply or renew their Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) card online using the [Oregon Medical Marijuana Online System \(OMMOS\)](#).
- Receiving or renewing an OMMP card requires a physician's recommendation. You can get a recommendation via telemedicine appointments. Contact your physician or clinic to see if they offer telemedicine.
- When you visit a cannabis retail shop, or accept a delivery in person, you are required to wear a mask or face covering.
- If you have concerns about going to a retail cannabis shop, you can send a caregiver designated on your medical marijuana registration. If you don't have one, OMMP is temporarily waving the fee to add a caregiver.
- The daily purchase limits for Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) cardholders and caregivers from an OLCC retail shops is eight (8) ounces of usable marijuana per day, with a limit of no more than 32 ounces of usable marijuana per month.



Information for medical marijuana caregivers

- Please take the necessary precautions when administering cannabis to patients, especially children or dependent adults. The following guidance for caring for someone in a home setting describe these precautions. It also describes what to do if you provide care for someone who has possible symptoms of COVID-19: <https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/1e2299.pdf>.



Information for medical marijuana growers

- Follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance for cleaning and disinfecting your facility: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>.



Information for attending physicians

- OMMP will accept telemedicine documentation for medical marijuana for patients. It just needs to meet all requirements of the Oregon Medical Board. If you have questions on how to offer telemedicine services, please contact the Oregon Medical Board.

For more information visit
healthoregon.org/coronavirus

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