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.

- Be sure to limit your contact with the public. This helps to minimize your chances of contact even with those who have COVID-19 but who do not show symptoms.

**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)](https://www.ommso.com).
• 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, we recommend that you wear personal protective equipment.
  » A cloth, paper or disposable face covering should be worn even if you just pick up something at a retail shop or accept a home delivery.

• 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 Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) has temporarily raised the daily purchase limit at cannabis retail shops to 24 ounces for OMMP patients and caregivers. The 32-ounce monthly limit remains in place.

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 flu-like symptoms: https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2299.pdf.

Information for medical marijuana growers


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

You can get this document free of charge in other languages, large print, braille or a format you prefer. Contact Mavel Morales at 1-844-882-7889, 711 TTY or OHA_ADAModifications@dhsoha.state.or.us.