



Notification of Cannabis Businesses Important Considerations for April 20 (420)

The Maryland Cannabis Administration (MCA) is providing this notice to remind cannabis businesses of important considerations while preparing for April 20 (420) to ensure a safe and smooth weekend for patients, consumers, staff, and the public.

MCA anticipates a high volume of sales

MCA is expecting very high volumes of adult consumer and medical-patient sales on the weekend of April 20. This will mean higher-than-normal vehicle and pedestrian traffic. You should expect crowding in parking lots and lines to enter the dispensary. MCA encourages you to prepare for this by:

- Increasing staff in all parts of dispensary operations
- Adding security for the premises, parking lot and any walkways where a line or crowd could form
- Establishing crowd control procedures for managing lines both inside and outside dispensaries, managing full parking lots and developing a plan for overflow parking
- Clearly communicating your policy to ensure that at least one hour per day is reserved for medical patients only or that medical patients have a dedicated service line during all hours of operation
- Talk to your neighbors now, if you have not already, about ways to minimize disruptions during operating hours

Make safety a priority

Increased crowd sizes in any setting can present a safety and security risk. MCA encourages you to report concerns about traffic, disorderly persons or any criminal activity to law enforcement. **Always call 911 if there is an emergency of any kind.**

MCA is here to help, but cannot assist with responding to traffic issues, reports of crime or medical emergencies. You are encouraged to contact MCA concerning operational matters such as purchase limits and operating procedures by emailing or calling the Senior Investigator for your region.

Ensure safety and efficiency

Taking a few simple steps can reduce potential for problems and help operations run smoothly:

- Check IDs for everyone. Adult consumers must be 21 years old or older to purchase any cannabis products. There are no exceptions.
- Make sure all IDs are valid and that the customer is at least 21 years old unless they are a patient or caregiver with a valid MCA registration.
- Do not sell alcohol, offer alcohol or give alcohol to anyone.

- You may not sell cannabis to any person who is visibly intoxicated. If your staff observe that a potential customer is intoxicated - do not sell cannabis to that person.
- Do not give away or offer to give away cannabis or any cannabis products as a prize or as part of a game or a contest.
- Cannabis may not be consumed on the dispensary premises. This includes the use of vapes, the ingestion of any edible products and the smoking of any flower. Ensure your staff is aware of this rule and is being proactive about notifying consumers that they may not consume any cannabis while on the premises. Consider hanging signs to inform customers that they may not consume cannabis at the dispensary.
- It is illegal to smoke cannabis in public.
- Remember that dispensaries may only be open for 12 hours in a day, may not open before 8:00 a.m. and must be closed by 10:00 p.m.

Emergency Regulations

The MCA submitted identical emergency and permanent regulations to the Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR) committee for approval on March 8 and 11, 2024, respectively. These emergency regulations are in DRAFT form and not in effect until approved by the AELR committee. Once AELR determines a date for the emergency regulations to take effect, the MCA will provide additional information to industry stakeholders, including a timeline for implementation or enforcement of any new requirements. For the permanent regulations, the MCA anticipates that the proposed regulations will print in the Maryland Register on May 3, 2024, and will be open for public comment for a period of 30 days.

MCA staff will be conducting random inspections of dispensaries across the state throughout the weekend to ensure compliance with Maryland laws.

MCA personnel will be monitoring email and telephone inquiries throughout the weekend as well. Non-time sensitive questions or concerns can be directed to email mca.compliance@maryland.gov. Additionally, the MCA webpage contains a tremendous amount of information and should be used as a resource: cannabis.maryland.gov

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