



March 18, 2020

Dear Governor Kate Brown,

Cannabis is an irreplaceable medicine for many people with conditions such as MS, Crohn's disease, Parkinson's, epilepsy, fibromyalgia, migraines, chronic pain, HIV, and those undergoing cancer treatment - as well as other conditions such as anxiety, depression and sleep disorders. We know this acutely as many of us are patients ourselves.

As you are creating emergency plans in our state to address the COVID-19 virus, we and our partners at Americans for Safe Access and dozens of other allied organizations would like to offer some guidance when addressing cannabis in our state for both medical cardholders and many of our customers who purchase products in legal adult-use recreational cannabis program. We are calling for precautions now to help ensure that patients have access today and that measures are taken to ensure that the supply chain is not interrupted.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has hinted that it may call for all non-essential businesses to close to prevent the spread of the virus. Our customers, both medical and not, rely on dispensaries in our state to provide them with safe and tested products. This service is critical to the tens of thousands of patients registered with OHA, as well as tens of thousands of consumers who are not registered patients, but still rely on cannabis to help control and alleviate their conditions.

We know that many states are currently taking action to help people continue to access their medicine through different strategies. Most notably, the City of San Francisco, in enacting its social distancing measures reversed its initial decision and has chosen to allow licensed and legal retail stores to stay open. For example, the California Bureau of Cannabis Control is working with CA businesses that serve medical cannabis patients by granting temporary changes in business plans that take into account the needs of patients and workers during this crisis. In Pennsylvania and Michigan, dispensaries will remain open since they fall into the same classification as pharmacies, which makes them essential.

It is our recommendation that Oregon put the following measures into place immediately to ensure that people who rely on cannabis as medicine do not have disrupted access:

- Make sure that cannabis businesses are considered "essential" businesses since all dispensaries in Oregon serve patients and thousands of patients are not registered with the OHA as a patient.

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- Instruct cannabis businesses on how they can make legal temporary changes to their business plans, including delivery and increased purchase limits, to accommodate customers/patients and staff during the crisis.
- Give tax relief to cannabis customers.
- Allow cultivation, wholesale and processing centers to stay open to ensure a steady supply of cannabis/medicine in the future.
- Temporarily increase purchase limits to decrease the total number of trips to cannabis dispensaries.
- Temporarily allow dispensaries to offer curbside delivery outside of the cannabis store to avoid people going inside the building.
- Temporarily allow home delivery for patients and customers whose residential address is not the same as their state-issued identification card.

We understand that determining the best means by which to keep our communities safe is no easy task, and we thank you for taking our recommendations into consideration as you craft strategies to ensure that cannabis will be available to all people in need throughout this public health emergency. We stand ready to help in any way possible.

Sincerely,

The Oregon Cannabis Association

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