



Safe Access to Cannabis in Times of COVID-19

As governments around the world respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, MPP and our allies are advocating for improved, safe access to cannabis in states with medical cannabis and legalization programs. In an open letter to governors and legislative leaders of medical cannabis and [adult-use states](#), MPP and our allies urged states to take a number of actions, including deeming businesses essential, allowing and encouraging delivery, allowing telemedicine, and extending expiration dates on ID cards.

Advocates can sign our petition [here](#). More than 10,000 supporters have already done so.

Only one state ordered a temporary shut down of cannabis businesses: Massachusetts Gov. Baker [ordered](#) adult-use businesses — but not medical cannabis — to close on March 23. The businesses are allowed to re-open on May 25, with curbside pick-up only. The *New York Times* created maps of reopenings [Telemedicine; extending renewal deadlines](#)

Arizona

Allowed Yes, during the crisis Unclear, but most or all remain open No Curbside pickup

California

Allowed Yes, in some counties [Yes, for adult use and patients](#) Yes, [Fast-track hiring of furloughed casino workers](#). See [Yes](#) Yes, due to COVID Essential; allowing recommendations by telemedicine, extending renewal deadlines, relaxing staffing rules, and [Allowing curbside pickup and delivery; delivery will continue post-COVID](#) Only Columbia Care has plans for delivery. Patients who can pick up cannabis curbside are urged to do so to ensure delivery is available for the homebound.

Florida

Allowed Yes, due to COVID [During the crisis for a follow-up](#) Yes, [telemedicine](#) and curbside during crisis The current executive order allowing telemedicine expires on [Yes](#) Allowed for renewals, but not for initial appointment Essential business, extending patient renewals for 60 days; licensees are asking patients to order online

Illinois

Not allowed Yes Yes, medical and adult-use dispensaries and cultivators Allowed for renewals, but not for initial appointment Allowing medical dispensaries to sell cannabis "on the dispensary's property or on a public walkway or curb adjacent to the dispensary" but delivery to patients is not allowed; [allowing new workers to begin working](#) while waiting for the state to process their ID card applications Regulators were scheduled to issue 75 dispensary licenses by May 1, but that has been delayed [due to the pandemic](#).

Iowa (low-THC, with in-state access)

Not allowed Yes [Yes Yes, for existing patients during declared emergency](#) Allowing delivery to patients, wherever patients are, by dispensary staff during crisis due to COVID-19. Also, during declared emergency, rules are waived to allow telemedicine for existing patients.

Maine

Allowed Yes, due to COVID [guidance](#) on social distancing, including regarding signage, disinfecting, hours for seniors, and limiting the number of people allowed in stores. Expired ID cards may be accepted. The opening of adult-use stores in Maine — which was expected in June — is delayed due to the virus.

Maryland

Allowed [Yes Yes, as a COVID measure as a COVID measure](#) for new patients

Adult-use stores were ordered closed from March 24 until May 25. *Only* curbside delivery will be allowed for adult-use once stores reopen. Medical dispensaries that deliver were advised to consider enlarging the areas they service and to encourage patients to place larger individual orders.

See [Yes](#) Allowed for renewals; allowed for initial appointment due to COVID

The governor signed an executive order that permits all licensed marijuana retailers to provide home delivery and curbside pickup of products. She also signed an [here](#).

Missouri

No access N/A, not open N/A, not open Yes

N/A, not open

No dispensaries open right now

Montana

[this page](#) for updates.

Nevada

Yes Yes, starting May 1 Allowed to continue operating Yes

Only delivery was allowed until May 1, then only delivery and curbside. In-store sales will be allowed with an approved plan as part of a Phase 1 reopening.

Under a [Phase 1 reopening](#), in-store sales are allowed with a MED-approved plan that includes no more than 10 customers. Consultations must be by email/phone where possible, and employee and consumers must wear face masks. Curbside and delivery are still encouraged.

New Hampshire

Not allowed Yes, during crisis Yes Yes, during crisis (previously allowed for renewals)

Unclear

Temporary waiver for delivery, with public health protocols; curbside dispensing and consultations, reduced caregiver fees, and expedited employee onboarding. Details [Declared essential; allowed curbside; expanded ID cards for 90 days; and suspended employee background checks](#)

New York

Allowed Yes Yes Yes

Through April 29, DOH is permitting registered organizations that have previous approval to deliver medical marijuana to the homes of registered patients and designated caregivers without written approval.

North Dakota

Allowed Not allowed The state has not issued a shelter-in-place order, and businesses have not been deemed essential or nonessential. Yes

None yet

[Yes. this page](#) for updates.

Gov. DeWine is considering allowing home delivery during the stay-at-home order. He [Yes](#) Yes

Essential business, curbside pickup

Oregon

Allowed Yes, during crisis [Increased purchase limit; curbside delivery during COVID; allowing businesses to accept expired IDs](#) See [this article](#) for more information.

Pennsylvania

Not allowed, but during crisis temporary caregivers can pick up cannabis for unlimited patients Yes, during crisis Yes Yes

Considered an essential service, curbside, delivery, 90-day supply allowed, caregivers can deliver to unlimited patients. More [Yes](#)

None yet

Utah

Allowed in response to COVID

Not to our knowledge, but drive-through will be allowed Yes Not for the initial appointment, but allowed for follow-up

Delivery is allowed in response to COVID, within strict parameters, and drive-through will be allowed starting in July.

Some pharmacies have revised procedures to reduce in-person contact, such as advance ordering.

Vermont

Allowed Yes, during the crisis Not explicitly, but operating Allowed for renewals, but not for initial appointment

Yes, delivery to patients in cars in dispensary parking lots is allowed during the pandemic, and registry identification cards for patients, caregivers, and staff have been temporarily expanded for 90 days.

Washington

Not allowed [Allowed during COVID-19 here](#) and [Yes](#) Allowed for renewals, but not for initial appointment

Mayoral [Forbes' "Coronavirus Crisis Shows Marijuana Is 'Essential' And Mainstream"](#)