



## Requirements for Maintaining Clean and Sanitary Conditions for Medical Marijuana Patients

Updated 3/26/2020

### Ohio Department of Health - Director's Order to Stay at Home

On March 22, 2020, Ohio Department of Health Director, Dr. Amy Acton, issued a Director's Order to Stay at Home. This order permits individuals to leave their residence to work for or obtain services through a healthcare and public health operation. The order further states that licensed medical marijuana dispensaries are considered a healthcare and public health operation and **will not** be closed as a result of the order. A copy of the order may be reviewed [here](#).

This order does implement additional requirements that dispensaries are required to comply with in order to remain open. This document has been updated to reflect those requirements.

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Per the requirements of [Rule 3796:6-3-02 of the Ohio Administrative Code](#) and the [Director of Health's Stay at Home Order](#), Ohio-licensed dispensaries are required to implement the following safeguards to ensure dispensaries are maintained under clean and sanitary conditions:

### Required Per Ohio Department of Health's Order - NEW

- Designated six-foot distances. Designating with signage tape, or by other means six-foot spacing for employees and customers in line to maintain appropriate distance, including appropriate spacing from point of sale terminals.
- Hand sanitizer and sanitizing products. Having hand sanitizer (if available) and sanitizing products readily available for employees and customers.
- Separate operating hours for vulnerable populations. Implementing separate operating hours for elderly and vulnerable customers.
- Online and remote access. Posting online whether a facility is open and how best to reach the facility and continue services by phone or remotely, including any new Board-authorized services offered to reduce spread of the virus (e.g., accepting phone orders for medical marijuana, etc.).
- Business and employers are also required to take the following actions:
  - Allow as many people as possible to work from home by implementing policies in areas such as teleworking and video conferencing.
  - Actively encourage sick employees to stay home until they are free of fever (without the use of medication) for at least 72 hours (three full days) AND symptoms have improved for at least 72 hours AND at least seven days have passed since symptoms first began. Do not require a healthcare provider's note to validate the illness or return to work of employees sick with acute respiratory illness; healthcare provider offices and medical facilities may be extremely busy and not able to provide such documentation in a timely way.
  - Ensure that your sick leave policies are up to date, flexible, and non-punitive to allow sick employees to stay home to care for themselves, children, or other family members. Consider encouraging employees to do a self-

- assessment each day to check if they have any COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, or shortness of breath).
- Separate employees who appear to have acute respiratory illness symptoms from other employees and send them home immediately. Restrict their access to the business until they have recovered.
  - Reinforce key messages – stay home when sick, use cough and sneeze etiquette, and practice hand hygiene – to all employees, and place posters in areas where they are most likely to be seen. Provide protection supplies such as soap and water, hand sanitizer, tissues, and no-touch disposal receptacles for use by employees.
  - Frequently perform enhanced environmental cleaning of commonly touched surfaces, such as workstations, countertops, railings, door handles, and doorknobs. Use the cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas and follow the directions on the label. Provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces can be wiped down by employees before each use.
  - Be prepared to change business practices if needed to maintain critical operations (e.g. identify alternative suppliers, prioritize customers, or temporarily suspend some of your operations).

**Required Per Rule 3796:6-3-02 - UPDATED**

- In conjunction with the Director of Health's Stay at Home Order, medical marijuana dispensaries are required to implement the following policies or procedures specific to medical marijuana dispensaries:
  - Implement social distancing policies for dispensary waiting rooms. Per CDC guidance, dispensaries are required to restrict capacity in waiting rooms to no more than ten people (to include staff).
  - Implement infection control procedures to include the following:
    - Regularly clean and disinfect counters, ATMs, keypads, waiting areas, and other spaces where public interaction occurs with an [an EPA-approved disinfectant](#). Clean at least every hour or after every 10 patients, whichever is more frequent. If cleaning and disinfecting products are in short supply, the Ohio Department of Health has developed the following guidance: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home/covid-19-checklists/cleaning-disinfecting-alternatives-covid-19-checklist>
    - Provide regular breaks for staff to engage in proper hand hygiene (i.e. routinely washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds).