
Medical Cannabis Program Reminders for COVID-19 Responses Regarding Mass Gatherings

April 14th, 2020

Please remember, while many individuals may plan to take part in celebrations surrounding April 20th, the COVID-19 related Public Health Orders are in effect until April 30, 2020. Mass gatherings greater than five people are not permitted. The Mass Gathering Ban is working to protect the health and safety of all residents of New Mexico. As the number of COVID-19 deaths in NM increase we know social distancing is slowing the spread of COVID-19 and saving lives.

Organizations deemed as “Essential Businesses”, such as dispensaries, couriers, and other medical cannabis businesses, must follow physical and social distancing protocols, including:

- maintain a 6-foot minimum distance between individuals;
- adhere to the maximum 20 percent capacity requirement in “retail spaces”;
- avoid person-to-person contact; and,
- comply with all other requirements outlined in the COVID-19 related Executive & Public Health Orders (<https://cv.nmhealth.org/public-health-orders-and-executive-orders/>).

As stated within the Public Health Order issued on April 6, 2020:

“The New Mexico Department of Public Safety, the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Department of the environment, and all other State departments and agencies are authorized to take all appropriate steps to ensure compliance with this Order.” Mass gathering FAQ here:

<https://cv.nmhealth.org/stay-at-home-faqs/>;

“All Public and Private employers are required to comply with this Order and any instructions provided by State departments or agencies regarding COVID-19.”; and,

“Nothing in this Order is intended to restrain or preempt local authorities from enacting more stringent restrictions than those required by the Order.”

<https://cv.nmhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/PHO-4-6-2020.pdf>

Visit the NMDOH COVID-19 website for the full text of the related Executive and Public Health Orders: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/public-health-orders-and-executive-orders/>

Violations of the mass gathering ban can be reported by emailing nmsp.covid19@state.nm.us or by contacting local police and sheriff authorities. Additional details can be found here:

<https://www.newmexico.gov/2020/03/25/how-to-report-non-compliance-within-a-business-a-violation-of-the-mass-gatherings-ban-or-other-violations-of-the-public-order/>

The New Mexico Department of Health Medical Cannabis Program appreciates the efforts of the Licensed Non-Profit Producers, Manufacturers, Couriers, Laboratories, Medical Providers, and other Community Partners who have enacted measures necessary to ensure patient, employee, and community safety.

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