

## Office of Medical Cannabis FAQ

### **General Information**

#### **What is medical cannabis?**

The Medical Cannabis Act defines Medical Cannabis as cannabis for certified medical use by a West Virginia resident with a serious medical condition.

#### **What forms of medical cannabis are approved for use?**

- Pill
- Oil
- Topical forms, including gels, cream or ointments
- A form medically appropriate for administration by vaporization or nebulization, excluding dry leaf or plant form unless dry leaf or plants forms become acceptable under rules adopted by the Bureau for Public Health
- Tincture
- Liquid
- Dermal Patch

#### **What is a “serious medical condition” under the Act?**

The statute defines a “serious medical condition” as any one of the following:

- Cancer
- Positive status for human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immune deficiency syndrome
- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
- Parkinson’s disease
- Multiple sclerosis
- Damage to the nervous tissue of the spinal cord with objective neurological indication of intractable spasticity.
- Epilepsy
- Neuropathies
- Huntington’s disease
- Crohn’s disease
- Post-traumatic stress disorder
- Intractable seizures
- Sickle cell anemia
- Severe chronic or intractable pain of neuropathic origin or severe chronic or intractable pain
- Terminal illness that is defined as a medical prognosis of life expectancy of approximately one year or less if the illness runs its normal course.

#### **When will the Bureau for Public Health begin accepting applications to implement the Medical Cannabis Program?**

The Bureau issued a press release on November 19, 2019 announcing that applications for growers/processors/dispensaries/laboratories will be available beginning December 19, 2019 and closing February 18, 2020 at 3:00 pm. Upon closing, there is no specified time for applications to be reviewed, scored and permits awarded. It is anticipated this may take up to six months.

#### **What else will the Medical Cannabis Program do for West Virginia?**

The Act provides for funding for research institutions to study the impact of medical cannabis on the treatment and symptom management of serious medical conditions. The advisory committee will review these research findings and make recommendations to the legislature for changes to the Act. In

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addition to funding for implementation and research, the Act further provides revenue to the Fight Substance Abuse Fund; the Division of Justice and Community Services, for grants to local law enforcement agencies for training, drug diversion, and other programs focused on crime and addiction; and a fund to be used for law enforcement professional training and professional development programs.