



# Department of Public Health

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## Overview of LA County's Implementation of Cannabis Regulations

- LA County is generally responsible for implementing and enforcing cannabis regulations in unincorporated areas and within contract cities.
- LA County Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) is the coordinating body for LA County agencies, and is working with LA City staff and other cities in the region to develop best practices and promote consistency.
- LA County Department of Public Health is responsible for enforcing health and safety codes and implementing public health policies affecting all areas of the County, among other things.



# Overview of LA County's Implementation of Cannabis Regulations

- LA County Department of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health (DPH/EH), will likely be responsible for plan check and inspection of cannabis businesses from a health perspective, ensuring proper sanitation and product safety, effectuating product recalls, and enforcement activities.
- DPH is the health officer for all cities in LA County, except Long Beach, Pasadena, and Vernon.
- Other departments that may be enforcing rules within contract cities include:
  - County Fire Department/Hazmat
  - County Building and Safety
  - County Business Licensing
  - County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs



## **DPH's Role in the Implementation of Proposition 64**

1. Community Education and Prevention Messaging
2. Policy Development and Advocacy
3. Surveillance
4. Health Equity
5. Quality Standards and Safety



## Community Education and Prevention Messaging

- Work in collaboration with other County departments, cities, schools, communities, and stakeholders to increase education, prevention, and treatment for cannabis abuse and addiction.
- Provide accurate, unbiased, culturally competent public health messaging and education about cannabis use.
- Develop strategies to reduce access to minors.





## Policy Development and Advocacy

- Develop policies that limit over-commercialization of cannabis.
- Develop policies that limit advertising and media marketing in areas with high exposure to youth.
- Develop policies that create incentives for cannabis businesses to address inappropriate consumption and negative impacts in communities.



## Surveillance

- Trends in adult and youth use.
- Impact on health care and health outcomes.
- Knowledge attitudes and beliefs about cannabis use.
- Impact to communities.



## Health Equity

- Disproportionate impact of use, sale, and cultivation of cannabis in low-income and communities of color.
- Promotion of smoke-free policies to from the dangers of secondhand smoke, while also addressing public consumption issues – “no place to smoke.”
- Public Health approach to cannabis policies - ensure the health and safety of county residents while treating substance use addiction as a chronic disease.





## Quality Standards and Safety

- Testing and quality control mechanisms.
- Provide consumer information for cannabis products.
- Work with the State, other counties, cities, local agencies, and the industry on enforcement of health code and other cannabis regulations.





## DPH/EH's Roles and Responsibilities

- Dispensaries and adult-use retail facilities.
- Distribution facilities.
- Manufacturing and extraction processes.
- Cultivation facilities (plumbing, backflow prevention).
- Complaint investigation.



## DPH and Proposed State Regulations

- Reviewing and providing comments on proposed state regulations.
- Review will include retail, distribution, manufacturing, cultivation, and laboratory testing.
- Comments will be provided to the State through the LA County Office of Cannabis Management, which is compiling comments from County departments.