

# Cannabis Health & Safety Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 1  
1:00PM – 3:00PM



**DENVER**  
PUBLIC HEALTH &  
ENVIRONMENT

*Denver's Nationally Accredited Public Health Department*



**CONNECT WITH US 311 | POCKETGOV | DENVERGOV.ORG | DENVER 8 TV**

# Committee Purpose

The committee is an advisory group. The purpose of the committee is to provide suggestions and input to Denver's public health administrator, the Executive Director of the Denver Department of Public Health & Environment (DDPHE), as well as other city officials and the Board of Environmental Health regarding health and safety issues associated with the production and consumption of cannabis products.

# What will the committee review?

- Health and safety issues associated with cannabis products and ingredients intended for human consumption.
- Health and safety issues associated with the cultivation, harvesting, and drying/curing/finishing processes used to cultivate and process cannabis plants.
- Health and safety issues associated with production processes used to manufacture cannabis products.
- Potential Denver cannabis health regulations.

# Housekeeping

- Time commitment
- Public comment guidelines
- Healthy Meeting Policy
- Breaks

# Denver Public Health & Environment

*Empowering Denver's communities to live better, longer*

## 5 Divisions

- Office of the Medical Examiner
- Denver Animal Protection
- Environmental Quality
- Community Health
- Public Health Inspections

## Public Health Inspections

- 2 Division Sections
  - Food Safety & Marijuana
  - Healthy Families Healthy Homes

Partner closely with Denver Public Health

## Establishments

- Food Service & MJ
- Child care facilities
- Residential health
- Noise
- Lead
- Body art establishments
- Pools
- Boarding homes
- Syringe access programs

# DEH Background with Legal Cannabis

- 2010: Food safety inspections of marijuana food businesses begin
- 2014: Twice annual inspections of all Denver marijuana infused product manufacturers and retailers begin; first Denver MJ recall
- 2015: Enforcement actions for pesticide contaminated MJ products begin, first Marijuana Management Symposium
- 2017: CBD product enforcement, Cannabis Sustainability Guide, Marijuana Health & Safety Hotline, Industry meeting
- 2018: Cannabis Health and Safety Advisory Committee



# Marijuana Business Licenses

Denver has 10 distinct marijuana licenses.

## Retail

- Stores
- Cultivation
- Infused Products (MIP)
- Testing Facility

## Medical

- Centers
- Cultivation
- Infused Products (MIP)
- Testing Facility

**Currently, Denver has ~1,100 licenses operating out of ~500 unique locations.**

## Both

- Social Consumption
- Transport

# Denver Marijuana Landscape – Inspections

## Number of Annual Compliance Inspections Performed By Each City Agency per License Type

	Environmental Quality	Excise and Licenses	Fire Department	Public Health Inspections
Retail Stores	-	1	2	2
Retail Cultivation Facilities	1	1	2	-
Retail Infused Products Manufacturers	-	1	2	2
Retail Testing Facilities	-	1	2	-
Medical Centers	-	1	2	2
Medical Cultivation Facilities	1	1	2	-
Medical Infused Products Manufacturers	-	1	2	2



# Authority

## Denver Revised Municipal Code:

- Chapter 23: Food & Food Handlers
  - Denver is a home-rule jurisdiction- only CO locality with own food safety regs
  - Regulations (Ch 23, D.R.M.C.) are applied to marijuana food businesses since 2010
  - Includes concentrates if ingested
- Chapter 24: Health & Sanitation
  - Promote health of city and inhabitants/visitors
  - Enforcement authority for hindering an investigation
  - Authority to conduct recalls for contamination issues



# Inspection Process Overview

## Role of Food Safety Section with MJ Food Operations

- Conduct plan reviews
- Approve business licenses
- Inspect food businesses & apply *Denver Food Establishment Regulations*
- Investigate complaints
- Timeline:
  - 2010: Started routine inspections of MJ food operations
  - 2012 & 2013: Complaint investigations only
  - 2014 - present: Routine inspections at least twice per year & contamination investigations as needed



# Discussion 1: Implementation of random sampling/testing during routine inspections

## Background

- Contaminant testing required by MED for MJ & MJ products
- Businesses conduct the sampling
- Option for process validation; if achieved, testing frequency drops from every batch to one per month

## Issues

- Hemp products: no testing requirements
- MJ & MJ products: sampling integrity
- MJ concentrates: no pesticide testing required; only for MJ plant material

## Meeting Activity



- Ideas to make this a meaningful process?



# Discussion 2: Identify/prioritize additional consumer protection concerns

## Background

- Lack of scientific research or evidence exists to evaluate potential public health concerns of consuming/using cannabis products

## Examples

- Added ingredients
- Equipment
- Hemp derived products
- Pesticide contamination
- No federal oversight

## Meeting Activity



# Thank you for participating today



**DENVER**  
PUBLIC HEALTH &  
ENVIRONMENT

*Denver's Nationally Accredited Public Health Department*



**CONNECT WITH US 311 | POCKETGOV | DENVERGOV.ORG | DENVER 8 TV**