

# Cannabis Cafés: Policies & Regulations for Public Health

## WHAT ARE CANNABIS CAFES AND AB 1775

CA Assembly Bill 1775 took effect on January 1, 2025, and permits cities and counties to allow for retail preparation, sale, *and consumption of noncannabis food and beverage products*, while allowing for smoking, vaporizing, and ingesting of cannabis or cannabis infused products on the premises of a licensed retailer or licensed microbusiness. This bill also allows for the preparation or sale of noncannabis food or beverage products in a business where the consumption of cannabis is allowed.

AB 1775 removes the previous state-imposed restriction on preparing and selling any non-cannabis foods or drinks on site in licensed cannabis dispensaries where cannabis consumption is allowed. It allows local jurisdictions to carve out an exception to the statewide smoke free law.



## OPERATIONAL AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR CANNABIS CAFES OUTLINED IN AB 1775

- Cannabis consumption cannot be visible from any public or non-age-restricted area. Ventilation and filtration systems are considered adequate if they prevent smoke and odors from migrating to any other part of the building or any neighboring building or grounds.
- Sale or consumption of alcohol or tobacco is not allowed on the premises.
- All onsite cannabis consumption areas must be only 21 years or older.
- Employees must be allowed to wear N95 masks at no personal cost and must be informed of secondhand cannabis smoke risks.
- Noncannabis foods or beverages must remain separate (no commingling); employees and food preparation areas must be protected from cannabis smoke/vapor.

## WHAT CAN LOCAL JURISDICTIONS DO TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH ?

- AB 1775 requires express approval by local jurisdictions.
- Localities that already permitted some form of onsite cannabis consumption (smoking, vaporizing and ingesting was already allowed in some municipalities under state law) must update their regulations to incorporate additional health and safety measures.
- If local jurisdictions allow for cannabis cafes, policy makers and advocates can work to implement and enforce more restrictive regulations to better protect the health of the public and café workers.
- Increase buffer zone restrictions for locating cannabis cafes or advertising for cafes near sensitive areas where youth or other at-risk populations are more likely to see them.
- Limit the number of cannabis cafes licensed to operate in the city.
- Set stricter regulations for controlling odor, smoke or visual impact of the cannabis

café with ventilation and filtration system requirements and access from the street.

- Mandate additional labeling and signage related to public health risks to workers and consumers.

## WHAT DO OTHER STATES DO?

- Maryland does not allow indoor smoking and requires establishments to complete responsible vendor training. Only 50 establishments are allowed statewide. Similar restrictions could exist within a city's geographic limits.
- Minnesota does not allow for smoking or vaping in on-site endorsed areas-only infused drinks and food products.
- Alaska and Michigan require that smoke-free areas be provided specifically for employees of the establishment.
- Colorado requires that establishments have all employees complete annual responsible vendor training as well as provide educational materials about safe consumption of cannabis.



## RISKS TO PUBLIC HEALTH

Know the risks to public health and safety and strengthen policies and regulations for cannabis cafes.

- There is no safe level of exposure to indoor secondhand smoke, which can lead to respiratory problems for both customers and staff. Thirdhand smoke—residue that lingers on surfaces—can also pose health risks.
- THC can be absorbed into the bloodstream of nonsmokers exposed.
- In poorly ventilated spaces, high-level exposure can lead to mild to moderate sedative effects and impaired motor skills.
- Today's cannabis is stronger. Today's cannabis has more than 3 times the concentration of THC than cannabis from 25 years ago. More THC — the mind-altering chemical in cannabis — may lead to an increase in dependency and addiction.
- Cannabis use may both worsen existing behavioral health conditions and increase the likelihood of developing new ones, creating a feedback loop of dependency and psychological distress.
- When you smoke cannabis, you inhale toxins, irritants, and carcinogens. Smoking cannabis can damage your lungs, increase your risk of bronchitis and scar small blood vessels. Vaping is linked to lung injury.

