News

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For Release:
June 25, 2020

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New Jersey Department of Health Announces Waiver to Allow Medical Marijuana Alternative Treatment Centers To Provide Home Delivery

To ensure qualifying patients acquire medicinal marijuana safely and reduce trips to Alternative Treatment Centers (ATCs) during the state's COVID-19 response and beyond, the New Jersey Department of Health today issued a waiver that allows ATCs to provide home delivery of medical cannabis to patients and designated caregivers. This marks a significant first step in implementing the full home delivery provisions found in Jake Honig's Law, which was signed by Governor Murphy last summer.

Deliveries will be conducted by ATC employees who have undergone a criminal background check, and delivery vehicles will need to be equipped with security measures, including GPS tracking and a secure lock box.

"The Department continues to prioritize patient access during this unprecedented pandemic," said Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli. "This new waiver will allow ATCs, once they have submitted a plan to the Department for approval, to deliver across the state."

ATCs will also be responsible for providing their drivers with adequate personal protective equipment, and training on how to conduct deliveries while minimizing the spread of COVID-19.

The waiver is the latest in a series of policies put in place by the Department to ease barriers to accessing dispensaries for patients and caregivers. In March, the Department reduced all caregiver fees to $20, allowed telephonic consultations, increased options for discounts, and authorized curbside dispensing. The Department also recently announced the opening of two new dispensaries, Zen Leaf in Elizabeth and Columbia Care in Vineland. In total, there are 11 operating dispensaries statewide.

There are currently 78,698 patients and 3,104 caregivers registered with the program.

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Last Reviewed: 6/25/2020