

March 17, 2020



To: Joseph Nicchitta
Director of LA County
Department of Consumer and Business Affairs

CC: Suzette Beamon
LA County Office of Cannabis Management

Re: Cannabis Retailer Stores

Dear Mr. Nicchitta,

The United Cannabis Business Association prioritizes the health and safety of our customers and associates, through providing safe access. In these challenging times as people are being affected, directly or indirectly, by the coronavirus (COVID-19), we would like to inform you of the steps we are taking to ensure healthy and responsible measures are actively being implemented.

UCBA has been informing cannabis businesses, with a particular focus on those within LA County and retailers, to follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the local health offices as well as have our cannabis retailers adopt the following steps to protect the health of our associates and customers:

For Retailers

- Thoroughly clean counter tops, registers, door handles, ATM's and other high-touch areas every 30 minutes.
- Provide disinfectant stations at check-in and at the check-out counters (wipes and hand sanitizers).
- Allow 10 or fewer customers at one time within the retail space
- Maintain safe social distances between customers who are queued in line.
- Promote online ordering and express pick up or curbside pick-up, if available.

For Associates

- Ask associates to stay home if they are not feeling well.
- Maintain safe social distances between registers for transactions.
- Require frequent and active hand washing and use of hand sanitizer.
- Refrain from touching or personal contact.
- Require that all associates wear gloves and change them frequently.
- Provide up-to-date information and guidance on how to minimize spread.

For Customers

- Encourage customers to prepare, but not to panic.
- Provide list of prevention methods recommended by the State of California.
- Offer online ordering, express pick up or curbside pick-up, if available.

The health and safety of our customers and associates is our top priority and we are doing all we can as well as welcome any additional guidance.

Legal cannabis retailers offer medical products that are essential for people's daily health and well-being. Californians with medical conditions, such as HIV, Cancer, Crohn's Disease, Epilepsy, Alzheimer's, Pain and Multiple Sclerosis need safe access to cannabis to continue their daily activities.

As consumers feel a growing uncertainty and anxiety, legal cannabis businesses must remain open so that Californians do not purchase untested products from the illicit market. Doing so may put them at an increased health risk and possibly add to the growing number of people needing emergency room services. We understand the need to close down bars and nightclubs as they are places where large numbers of people gather for long periods of time. But this is not the case in our industry.

In recent and continuing VAPI crisis, both the California Department of Public Health as well as the Bureau of Cannabis Control noted that all instances originated from the illicit market. It is increasingly important to recognize the essential need of legal cannabis businesses to operate as a means to promote public health. The illicit market is unlikely to observe many if any of the health safety recommendations and should legal cannabis businesses not be allowed to continue to operate, then the spread of COVID-19 is likely to be exacerbated by illicit market.

In closing, UCBA would like to reiterate our commitment to prioritize the health of our customers and associates, and ask you to consider the essential need of having legal cannabis businesses continue to provide safe access for the medical needs of others. As you develop new guidelines for the cannabis industry, we would like to be a resource and serve as a partner. For questions, please contact Jonatan Cvetko at 310.686.0663

Thank you for the consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonatan Cvetko', written in a cursive style.

Jonatan Cvetko
Executive Director
United Cannabis Business Association