In 2016, the Ohio General Assembly passed House Bill 523 and Ohio became the 27th state to legalize marijuana for medical purposes. The law mandated a timeline to create a fully functional medical marijuana program and that program must be live by September of 2018. The program will allow individuals over the age of 18 to have marijuana recommended for a specified list of health issues. A minor will also be permitted to receive medical marijuana if they have received consent from a parent or legal guardian and receive a recommendation from a certified physician. Note that a recommendation from a physician is different from a prescription for traditional medication. There will not be dosage limits, but only limits on the amount that a person can possess. Therefore, the dosage is based upon patient choice and not a prescribed amount by the physician.

There is also a difference in the means that a person can get marijuana. Instead of going to a pharmacy for medication, all medical marijuana will be sold at 60 dispensaries around the state. These establishments will only have medical marijuana and products to consume medical marijuana.

**Things to Know**

- Medical marijuana should be locked away at all times, out of the reach of children. Increases in the number of calls to poison-control centers have occurred for unintentional marijuana exposures among children in other states with medical and/or recreational marijuana programs.

- Do not drive after consuming medical marijuana.

- Medical marijuana use in public is illegal.

- Medical marijuana cannot be smoked in Ohio.

- Employers do not have to accommodate medical marijuana but should revisit their workplace policy on marijuana use.

- Although research on marijuana being used as a medicine is limited, there are numerous studies that show the impacts of marijuana on mental health, including psychosis, anxiety and earlier onset of schizophrenia.1

---

Ohio's Medical Marijuana Program

Ohio's Process of Medical Marijuana

Physicians
There is no prescription for medical marijuana. Physicians will be able to recommend medical marijuana only after taking a course offered by the Ohio State Medical Board.

Medical Marijuana Card
Only persons who have had a physician recommend medical marijuana will receive a card. Cards must be presented at all times when purchasing marijuana from a dispensary.

Dispensaries
Medical marijuana will not be sold in pharmacies. Up to 60 dispensaries will be in Ohio that will sell medical marijuana and supplies for the ingestion of medical marijuana.

Plant Matter
Plant matter will be sold in Ohio, however, a patient will only be allowed to vape the product. Smoking of medical marijuana remains illegal. The maximum THC content in plant matter is capped at 35%.

Edibles
Medical marijuana edibles will be sold in Ohio. Edibles may include candies, brownies and other forms, however, cannot be appealing to children. The maximum THC content in an edible is capped at 70%.

Oils and Tinctures
Medical marijuana oils and tinctures will be sold in Ohio. These products may include patches, creams, oils for vaporization and capsules. The maximum THC content in an edible is capped at 70%.

Ohio’s Medical Marijuana Proposed Timeline

- Sept. 8, 2016 - Governor Kasich signs HB523
- Spring, 2018 - Up to 40 processors chosen
- Spring, 2018 - Testing facilities chosen
- Summer, 2018 - Testing facilities open
- Fall, 2017 - 24 cultivators selected
- Spring, 2018 - Up to 60 dispensary locations chosen
- Late spring, 2018 - Cultivators begin growing marijuana
- Sept. 8, 2018 - Dispensaries open and marijuana sales begin

Source: MedicalMarijuana.Ohio.gov