



# IDFPR

Illinois Department of  
Financial and Professional Regulation

Division of Professional Regulation

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Acting Secretary

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## FAQs

### **Medical Cannabis Dispensary – Identification and COVID-19**

**1. What identifications can be accepted by a medical cannabis dispensary for medical cannabis patients?**

Any government issued identification is acceptable for a medical patient to use for access to a medical cannabis dispensary including: Illinois Driver's License, Illinois Temporary Visitor Driver's License or State Identification Card issued by the Illinois Secretary of State.

**2. What are the required identifications that a medical cannabis patient must present to a medical cannabis dispensary for access or purchase?**

- 1) DPH Medical Cannabis Registry Identification card and
- 2) a government issued ID.

**3. Can a medical cannabis dispensary accept a medical cannabis patient's identification if expired?**

Yes, under the guidance of the Illinois Secretary of State, a license, CDL or ID card that is expiring soon (or expired recently) may be accepted for the duration of the disaster proclaimed by Governor Pritzker and at least 90 days after the disaster ends.

**4. How should a medical cannabis patient be identified?**

The dispensary agent shall be able to review both the forms of ID: the DPH Medical Cannabis Registry Identification card and a government issued ID. These items shall be compared to the patient's facial features while present at the time of purchase. This includes viewing the patient's face, head, and other physical features that will allow the dispensing agent to confirm the identity of the patient who is purchasing.

**5. Can a dispensing agent or security personnel request a medical cannabis patient to remove items from their face or head including: face covering, sunglasses, hats, etc.?**

Yes. There are certain circumstances when you may be required by a business to temporarily remove items for the purpose of checking identification. If you are asked to remove an item from your face or head, you should attempt to stand least six feet away from others while uncovering for identification. For more information visit IDPH website: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19/faq-face-coverings-business>

**6. Can a dispensing agent or security personnel request a medical cannabis patient to remove their head covering when the medical cannabis patient's head covering is part of their religious practice?**

A licensed dispensing organization business must treat all people equally, without regard to certain protected bases such as their race, national origin, religion, or age. If a medical cannabis patient communicates that their head covering is part of their religious practice, the dispensing organization should recognize their claim and may allow entry if other identification criteria is met.

Individuals who believe they have been treated differently because of one or more protected bases can contact the Illinois Department of Human Rights to file a discrimination charge by visiting [www.illinois.gov/dhr](http://www.illinois.gov/dhr) or by calling (312) 814-4320 or (866) 740-3953 (TTY).

**7. Can a medical cannabis dispensary turn me away if I do not have a face covering?**

Yes, a medical cannabis dispensary can prohibit you from entering the building if you do not have a face covering, however, curbside service is an option for medical cannabis patients to purchase and pick up their items from an outside area or from their vehicle. A vehicle is not required to use curbside service at a medical licensed dispensary.

**8. Must a medical cannabis patient provide proof of a medical condition or disability that prevents wearing a face covering?**

No. Proof of a medical condition or disability is not required. It is enough to communicate that the medical cannabis patient has a medical condition or disability that prevents them from safely wearing a face covering. Currently, the majority of medical cannabis dispensaries provide curbside service as an option for medical cannabis patients to purchase and pick up their items from an outside area or from their vehicle. A vehicle is not required to use curbside service at a medical licensed dispensary.

**9. Do these same provisions apply to designated caregivers of medical cannabis patients?**

Yes, this guidance would apply to designated caregivers who purchase on behalf of a medical cannabis patient.

*DISCLAIMER: The above questions and answers are provided for general information only and may not be completely accurate in every circumstance, do not purport to be legal advice, and are not intended to be legally binding on the Department in a particular case. Questions involving interpretation of the law and your legal rights and obligations should be addressed to your lawyer.*