



DENVER
PUBLIC HEALTH &
ENVIRONMENT



December 8, 2022

Denver Cannabis Informational Bulletin *DDPHE Shelf Stability & Approved Source Updates*

The Denver Department of Public Health & Environment (DDPHE) was one of the first local health departments to regulate edible cannabis products intended for ingestion. DDPHE has conducted assessments and evaluations of edible cannabis products since 2010 to ensure their safety for Clostridium Botulinum, commonly referred to as C. Bot. The bacteria's ability to grow in mediums, such as plant derived oils, presented initial concerns that infused edible products could be contaminated with the pathogen.

DDPHE has previously allowed manufacturers to either store infused oils at 41°F or below, **or** implement a control measure during production to prevent the growth of Clostridium botulinum spores. DDPHE continually evaluates hazards, analyzes data, and adapts to findings in all public health programs to ensure the controls required for the hazards identified are supported. DDPHE is not aware of any complaints received or any confirmed cases of botulism related to cannabis products within Colorado or other states with regulated cannabis industries. Therefore, DDPHE will no longer be assessing edible cannabis infused products for shelf stability, effective December 8, 2022. Businesses will no longer be required to submit applications to classify products as shelf stable, conduct testing to validate shelf stability, and/or retain documentation regarding shelf stable products.

Cannabis infused products that contain ingredients that require time/temperature control in traditional foods to limit pathogenic microorganism growth or toxin formation (i.e., milk or other dairy products) may still require evaluation to determine shelf stability. All cannabis infused products intended for retail consumption are still required to be manufactured by a regulated, approved source. DDPHE will continue to evaluate products to ensure they are produced under safe conditions.

While DDPHE has not received any complaints concerning product contamination from the Clostridium botulinum pathogen or had any confirmed cases of botulism within the cannabis industry, the department will continue to analyze data and adapt to findings in ways that ensure the health and wellbeing of consumers.

Please call 720-913-1311 or email phicomments@denvergov.org with further questions or comments.

The Denver Department of Public Health & Environment (DDPHE), Denver's nationally accredited public health agency, empowers Denver's communities to live better, longer. The divisions of DDPHE are: Animal Protection, Community & Behavioral Health, Environmental Quality, Office of the Medical Examiner, Public Health Investigations, and Shared Services & Business Operations. In partnership with Public Health Institute at Denver Health, DDPHE provides quality public health services to the City and County of Denver. For more information about DDPHE, visit denvergov.org/dphe or follow us on Twitter and Facebook @DDPHE.