

Motor Vehicle Division Information Memo # 20-22

2020 Legislation – Removal of DOT from Iowa’s Medical Cannabidiol Program

DATE: June 30, 2020

FROM: Kathleen Meradith-Eyers, Compliance Officer, DIS

TO: All Driver and Identification Services staff, Iowa County Treasurers and County Treasurer’s staff the issue driver’s licenses and non-operator’s identification cards

SUBJECT

This informational memo explains legislation enacted during the 2020 legislative session which ends the department’s role in Iowa’s medical cannabidiol program, specifically, the issuance of medical cannabidiol registration cards to eligible patients and caregivers.

SUMMARY

House File 2589 amends Iowa Code chapter 124E, the Medical Cannabidiol Act, to remove the DOT from the process of medical cannabidiol (CBD) card issuance. The change provides that the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), not the DOT, will now be responsible for issuance beginning July 1, 2020. The legislation also makes numerous changes to the medical cannabidiol program that do not impact the Motor Vehicle Division.

To transition issuance of medical cannabidiol cards from the DOT to IDPH, the legislation provides that we will continue to issue CBD cards until June 30, 2020. Beginning July 1, 2020, IDPH will begin issuing CBD cards. All CBD cards issued by the DOT prior to July 1, 2020 will remain valid for the remainder of the card’s validity period (12 months following issuance).

With DOT ending its role in the medical cannabidiol program, we are rescinding IM #17-04 and IM #19-26 that were previously issued regarding issuance of medical cannabidiol cards.

The legislation is effective July 1, 2020.

LINK TO LEGISLATION

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGR/88/HF2589.pdf>

CURRENT

Under current Iowa law, we issue one-year medical CBD cards to eligible patients and caregivers through in-person transactions, and recently, through remote issuance transactions due to COVID-19. We have not allowed CBD cards to be issued through myMVD or kiosks. The current process requires a customer to apply to IDPH for approval to receive a medical cannabidiol card, then visit a DOT service center (or request remote issuance) to be issued the card.

NEW

This directive no longer requires us to issue CBD cards to eligible patients and caregivers beginning July 1, 2020 and provides that IDPH will be responsible for issuing CBD cards.

BUSINESS IMPACT

June 30, 2020 is the last day we have the legal authority to issue medical CBD cards, and beginning July 1, 2020, we can no longer issue medical CBD cards to eligible patients and caregivers. We should continue to serve these customers and complete any pending remote issuance requests for medical CBD cards until the end of the business day on June 30, 2020.

Beginning July 1, 2020, any new requests we receive for medical CBD cards, whether remote or in-person, should be directed towards the IDPH, as we will no longer issue them. Since this legislation was adopted less than one month prior to its effective date, it will take additional time to remove all the programming from the ARTS to disallow issuance of a CBD card. **Regardless of the functionality available in ARTS, we can no longer issue CBD cards as of July 1, 2020.**

We will be updating our website and our service selector webpage to reflect that as of July 1, 2020, the IDPH and not the DOT is responsible for issuing CBD cards.

HELPFUL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following questions and answers provide additional information that will be helpful to you and to customers.

WHY IS THIS CHANGE BEING MADE?

This change to remove the DOT from CBD issuance was included in the legislation in order to better serve customers who are utilizing the medical cannabidiol program. Customers seeking a CBD card will no longer need to make a separate trip to the DOT to be issued a CBD card, rather, they will complete the whole CBD card process with IDPH. Since we were issuing the CBD cards at no cost, the DOT will also realize some cost savings by no longer issuing CBD cards. Additionally, removing the DOT from CBD card issuance will save staff time and reduce customer volume.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A CUSTOMER CONTACTS US ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2020 TO BE ISSUED A MEDICAL CBD CARD?

We cannot issue a medical CBD card beginning July 1, 2020, even though ARTS will temporarily still allow issuance due to a delay in implementing programming changes. Beginning July 1, we should direct all customers to contact the Iowa Department of Public Health to receive a medical CBD card. However, since customers already conduct the card application process through IDPH, we do not anticipate that we will receive many requests for card issuance once the issuance authority transitions from the DOT to IDPH.

WHAT IS THE CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, IN CASE WE NEED TO REDIRECT A CUSTOMER?

The contact information for the IDPH Office of Medical Cannabidiol is:

Phone: 515-725-2076

Fax: 515-725-0615

E-mail: medical.cannabidiol@idph.iowa.gov

Website: <https://idph.iowa.gov/omc>

WILL CUSTOMERS STILL BE ABLE TO USE THEIR DOT-ISSUED CBD CARD AFTER THIS LAW BECOMES EFFECTIVE?

Yes, the legislation provides that CBD cards issued by the DOT prior to July 1, 2020 will continue to be valid for the 12-month period following issuance, which is the normal validity period for CBD cards. In other words, a customer with a DOT-issued CBD card can continue to use the card until it expires.

WHAT ARE WE DOING TO SPREAD THE WORD TO CUSTOMERS THAT THEY CAN NO LONGER RECEIVE THEIR CBD FROM US?

We will maintain our current medical CBD card webpage and revise it with updated information directing customers to IDPH for card issuance beginning July 1, 2020.

Additionally, the Iowa Department of Public Health will be updating their website and customer correspondence templates to reflect the new process for issuing CBD cards.