



Americans Against Legalizing Marijuana

March 31, 2020

TO INCREASE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF COVID-19, WE MUST ASK PATIENTS ABOUT MARIJUANA USE BECAUSE COVID-19 HARMS ARE SEVERELY ELEVATED BY MARIJUANA USE

Who is Vulnerable to COVID-19? The Centers for Disease Control states that the people at high risk of getting very sick or dying from COVID-19 include:

1. Older adults
2. People who have serious chronic medical conditions like:
 - Heart disease
 - Diabetes
 - Lung disease

Asthma - People with asthma may be at higher risk of getting very sick. COVID-19 can affect your respiratory tract (nose, throat, lungs), cause an asthma attack, and possibly lead to pneumonia and acute respiratory disease.

From: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/high-risk-complications.html>

This means that if your immune system is impaired or you have lung or respiratory problems you are very vulnerable.

A comprehensive study of the dangers of marijuana smoke by the Hazard Assessment Branch of the California Environmental Protection Agency concluded in part that:

There is evidence that marijuana smoke is genotoxic, immunosuppressive, and can alter endocrine function. Studies of 9-THC and other cannabinoids provide evidence for alterations of multiple cell signaling pathways, in endocrine function, and suppression of the innate and adaptive immune response. Prolonged exposures to marijuana smoke in animals and humans cause proliferative and inflammatory lesions in the lung.

From: Evidence on the Carcinogenicity of Marijuana Smoke, August 2009, Reproductive and Cancer Hazard Assessment Branch Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, California Environmental Protection Agency, page 85; <https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/proposition-65/chemicals/finalmjsmokehid.pdf>

One of the most serious findings in marijuana research was the effect of marijuana on various immune functions. Cellular immunity is impaired, pulmonary immunity is impaired, and impaired ability to fight infection is now documented in humans. This impairment leaves the patient unable to fight certain infections and fatal diseases. The potential for these complications exists in all forms of administration of marijuana. Habitual smoking of marijuana has a number of effects on the respiratory and immune systems including alterations in lung function, increased prevalence of acute and chronic bronchitis and airway injury and impairment of antimicrobial activity.

www.aalm.info

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We advocate for no use of illegal drugs and no illegal use of legal drugs.

From: Tashkin, Donald; Baldwin, Gayle; Sarafian, Theodore; Dubinett, Steven; Roth, Michael; "Respiratory and Immunologic Consequences of Marijuana Smoking," The Journal of Clinical Pharmacology, First published: 16 January 2014; <https://doi.org/10.1002/j.1552-4604.2002.tb06006.x>Citations: 72

A study published in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine states:

We conclude that smoking marijuana, regardless of tetrahydrocannabinol content, results in a substantially greater respiratory burden of carbon monoxide and tar than smoking a similar quantity of tobacco.

From: Wu et al., Pulmonary hazards of smoking marijuana as compared with tobacco, (N Engl J Med 1988;318:347-51.); <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJM198802113180603>

An author of a book on marijuana and medicine concludes:

Marihuana has been shown to decrease host resistance to bacterial, protozoan, and viral infections in experimental animal models and in vitro systems. Recent immuno epidemiological studies suggest that marihuana may also influence the outcome of viral infections in humans. The main substance in marihuana that exerts these immuno depressive effects is its major psychoactive constituent Δ^9 -tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

From: Cabral, Guy; Marihuana and Medicine pp 317-325 "Marihuana and the Immune System." 1999; https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-1-59259-710-9_32

If we are to understand how COVID-19 is spread, we must gather data from COVID -19 patients as to their marijuana use. To that end, a team of medical and drug use prevention experts contributed to drafting the attached questionnaire for COVID-19 patients to be used by medical care providers to gather this crucial information. You can ask all or some of these questions. The important idea is to document marijuana use. Our thanks to the following professionals for their input into this document:

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For more information please visit our website at www.aalm.info to read our position paper "Coronavirus (COVID-19) Harms Are Severely Elevated by Marijuana Use and Marijuana Sales."

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COVID-19 SCREENING FOR MARIJUANA USE

Circle all that apply

1. In the past 30 days have you used any marijuana or marijuana products? Yes No

2. What type of marijuana products have you used in the past 30 days?

Primarily THC based products

Primarily Hemp/CBD based products

3. Have you used marijuana with THC in the past 30 days? Yes No

What forms of marijuana have you used in the last 30 days? What was the THC percentage if you know?

Smoking - Flower/Bud Shake Wax Shatter Dab THC%_____

Vaping - JUUL e-cigarette THC%_____

Edibles - Type_____ THC%_____

Capsules/oral drops - Type_____ THC%_____

Topical - Type_____ THC%_____

4. How many years have you been using marijuana? More than 20 years.? Or have you used it 10-20 years. 5-10 years. 1-5 years 1year? Less than 1 year.?

5. At what age did you start? _____

6. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you use marijuana? 0-30 _____day

7. Are you a daily user? Yes No

8. If daily, how many times a day? _____

9. Do you purchase from State-approved sites? Medical Recreational

10. Do you grow your own? Yes No

11. Do you use marijuana as a medicine recreationally or both?

12. Do you have a physician who recommends the use of marijuana? Yes No

13. Did you ever develop a cough from smoking or vaping? Yes No

14. Any other symptoms from using? If so what symptoms? _____

15. Have any of your friends, family, contacts tested positive for COVID-19? Yes No
16. What is your source for marijuana? friends retail street?
17. Have you used marijuana in a group in the last 30 days? Yes No
18. In the past 30 days did you smoke or vape any tobacco/nicotine products? Yes No
19. In the past 30 days did you smoke or vape any other drugs? Yes No