

# Officials Issue Post-Thanksgiving Reminders for Cannabis Users

## Multiple States and Federal Agencies Issue Cannabis Reminders Ahead of Thanksgiving

As Thanksgiving approaches, officials in multiple U.S. states and Canada are offering guidance to cannabis consumers, advising them on how to enjoy the holiday responsibly while navigating marijuana laws. From travel restrictions to the importance of keeping cannabis products secure, authorities are making it clear that while marijuana consumption is legal in certain states and provinces, there are still rules that must be followed. Here's a breakdown of what federal and state officials are telling cannabis consumers to ensure a safe and legal Thanksgiving.

### Canadian Border Services Agency Issues Strong Warning Against Border Crossings with Marijuana

Even though marijuana is legal in Canada, bringing cannabis across the U.S. border remains strictly prohibited. The Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) has issued a reminder to travelers that marijuana remains illegal in the U.S. under federal law. The agency stressed that violators of this policy could face serious consequences, including arrest and prosecution.

In 2023, the CBSA intercepted more than 72,200 kilograms of prohibited drugs, including marijuana, a 30% increase from 2022. CBSA's message is clear: *"Don't bring it in. Don't take it out."* Travelers crossing the U.S.-Canada border are advised to leave marijuana behind, even if they are traveling from a jurisdiction where cannabis is legal.

### Connecticut Reminds Consumers About Cannabis Availability on Thanksgiving

In Connecticut, marijuana dispensaries will remain open on Thanksgiving, even though off-premise alcohol sales are prohibited on the holiday. The Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) issued a reminder that while liquor stores will be closed, cannabis products can still be purchased at any licensed cannabis establishment. However, consumers are encouraged to check the dispensary hours ahead of time as some retailers may have adjusted schedules.

The DCP also advised adults consuming cannabis to do so responsibly, including keeping cannabis products locked up, out of reach of children, and stored in their original packaging. This reminder follows similar guidance issued last year, when confusion arose over the state's alcohol and marijuana rules for the holiday.

### U.S. Customs and Border Protection Reminds Travelers: No Cannabis at the Border

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issued a holiday travel advisory, emphasizing that marijuana remains illegal under federal law in the U.S., even in states where it is legal. The CBP reminded travelers not to cross the border with marijuana or any cannabis-related products.

With the holiday travel season in full swing, CBP highlighted that the risks of transporting marijuana into the U.S. can result in significant legal consequences, including fines and detention. Despite marijuana being legal in certain states, CBP warns that this does not apply to federal jurisdiction or international borders, where cannabis remains a controlled substance.

### **New York’s Cannabis Office Encourages Safe Storage for Thanksgiving**

In New York, the state’s Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) is offering a friendlier message to cannabis consumers. As Thanksgiving approaches, the OCM is urging consumers to keep their cannabis products safe and secure. The agency encouraged adults to store their cannabis products in their original packaging and out of sight, away from children and pets.

For those looking to stock up for the holiday, the OCM provided a link to a map of licensed cannabis retailers in the state. The OCM also used this opportunity to promote responsible consumption, reminding consumers to be mindful of the legal restrictions surrounding marijuana use.

### **Ohio Officials Advocate for Responsible Cannabis Use During the Holiday Season**

In Ohio, the Department of Commerce Divisions of Liquor Control (DOLC) and Cannabis Control (DCC) issued a joint advisory ahead of Thanksgiving. Officials in Ohio urged residents to practice social responsibility when consuming both alcohol and cannabis products during the holiday season.

Ohio’s advisory includes a reminder that marijuana use in public spaces remains illegal and is classified as a minor misdemeanor. Additionally, the consumption of cannabis by individuals under 21 is prohibited, and any attempt to provide cannabis to minors can result in significant legal penalties, including fines and potential jail time.

As with alcohol, Ohio officials emphasized that cannabis use should not impair individuals, particularly when operating vehicles or engaging in activities that could jeopardize the health and safety of others. The DCC and DOLC urged Ohioans to prioritize safety and responsibility as they enjoy the festivities.

### **Virginia’s Cannabis Control Authority Urges Responsible Consumption**

In Virginia, the Cannabis Control Authority is offering similar advice, reminding adults who plan to partake in cannabis use over the Thanksgiving holiday to do so responsibly. The Authority encouraged consumers to “keep your stash safe” to avoid any mix-ups, particularly in the kitchen during meal preparation.

Virginia’s guidance emphasizes that cannabis should be kept secure and out of reach of children and pets, ensuring that consumption does not lead to unintended consequences or safety concerns. The reminder comes as the state continues to roll out its legal cannabis market and establish regulations around usage.

### **General Tips for Safe and Responsible Cannabis Consumption**

Across the U.S. and Canada, officials are offering several consistent pieces of advice to ensure that cannabis consumption over the holiday is both legal and safe:

**Keep Cannabis Products Secure** – Store products in their original packaging, locked up, and out of reach of children or pets.

**Plan Transportation Wisely** – If you plan to travel after consuming cannabis, make sure to arrange alternative transportation if necessary, as driving under the influence of marijuana can lead to serious

consequences.

**Avoid Border Crossing with Cannabis** – Whether traveling between states or countries, ensure you do not attempt to cross any borders with cannabis products, as this could result in legal trouble.

**Consume Responsibly** – Always be aware of the impact cannabis may have on your physical and mental abilities, and avoid using marijuana before engaging in activities that require full attention or coordination, such as driving.

### **Enjoy the Holidays Responsibly**

As cannabis laws continue to evolve across North America, it's important for consumers to stay informed and make responsible decisions when partaking during the holidays. Whether you're traveling across state lines or simply enjoying cannabis in the comfort of your home, following these guidelines can help ensure a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving for all.

In light of the increasing number of states and provinces legalizing cannabis, these reminders serve as a timely reminder that while marijuana consumption may be legal in certain regions, there are still important rules and responsibilities to consider—especially when it comes to travel and public safety.

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