



April 3, 2017

**Office of the  
Chief Medical  
Health Officer**

## **FAQ - MARIJUANA EDIBLES**

*For health care workers who are marijuana prescribers or have patients using medical marijuana*

The Health Protection program, including your Medical Health Officers have received reports of businesses which may offer marijuana edibles to the public which do not comply with the provincial food regulations. Your patients may seek your advice on the issue.

### **1. Which products are considered edibles?**

- Marijuana edibles are food which may include any of the following examples:
  - Is composed of marijuana (i.e. teas);
  - Includes marijuana as an ingredient (i.e. baked goods, chocolate); or
  - Has been infused with marijuana or marijuana oils (i.e. gummies, liquor).

Cannabis oils and other forms permitted under federal Medical Marijuana regulations and are not considered food.

### **2. Are marijuana edibles legal?**

- BC Food Premises Regulation requires that food for sale, distribution or preparation must come from an approved food source (not just approved marijuana).
- The Health Protection Environmental Health Services will investigate concerns where food is offered for sale that may not have been prepared in accordance with the Food Regulations.
- Individuals may prepare prescribed medicinal marijuana for personal use in any manner they choose. This food product cannot be offered for sale.

### **3. What is the harm?**

- Individuals may perceive that marijuana edibles are harmless and therefore an alternative to smoked or vaped cannabis.
- Marijuana edibles may present risk due to:
  - Risks inherent in any prepared food that does not follow safety standards.
  - Challenges with determining accurate dose of active cannabinoid concentrations.
  - The delayed and variable onset of psychotropic effects in ingested cannabis.
  - The inadvertent consumption by children or other persons unaware on inclusion of cannabis.

### **4. Where can I find more information regarding what is or is not permitted regarding the sale of marijuana in Canada?**

- For more information, you can contact the Office of Medical Cannabis <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/topics/cannabis-for-medical-purposes.html>.

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