

March 2020 Newsletter
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FDA CBD UPDATE

On March 5, the FDA sent its thoughts on cannabidiol regulation to Congress as part of one of the requirements laid out for the agency in the FY20 spending package. Read more [here](#).

FDA REOPENS CBD PUBLIC HEARING DOCKET

On March 10, FDA officially reopened its April 2019 cannabidiol comment docket on *Regulations.gov* in order to gather up-to-date information on CBD as it crafts regulations and determines whether to allow the compound to be used in consumer products, including foods and dietary supplements. Read more [here](#).

FDA ISSUES FINAL RULE ON HEALTH WARNINGS FOR CIGARETTE PACKS AND ADS

On March 17, the FDA issued a final rule requiring new health warnings on cigarette packs. Read more [here](#).

DEA PROPOSED RULE ON MARIJUANA CULTIVATION FOR RESEARCH

On March 23, the DEA issued a [notice](#) of proposed rulemaking for adding additional research marijuana growing licenses. Comments are due May 22, 2020. Read more [here](#).

NIDA RFI ON STANDARD UNIT DOSE OF THC FOR CANNABIS RESEARCH

On March 23, NIDA issued a request for information inviting comments on the establishment and implementation of a standard unit dose of THC for cannabis research. Responses must be received by May 1, 2020. Read more [here](#).

NIDA COVID-19 RESOURCES

NIDA has created a webpage compiling COVID-19 resources relevant to the substance use community, including researchers, healthcare providers, and persons with substance use disorders and those in recovery. Read more [here](#).

VAPING COULD COMPOUND RISKS OF COVID-19

According to the FDA, vaping may leave users with underlying health conditions at higher risk of serious complications if they contract the respiratory illness caused by the new coronavirus strain. Read more [here](#).

NIH NOTICES ON GRANT-RELATED OBLIGATIONS

The NIH released a series of notices to help researchers and administrators manage grant-related obligations while their institutions respond to disruptions from COVID-19. The [first notice](#) reminds investigators that the NIH will consider late applications if a recipient's organization is closed or unable to submit an application on time due to public health or other emergencies. An [FAQ notice](#) provides information for managing proposals and awards in an emergency. In a [third announcement](#), the NIH, in cooperation with HHS and OMB, details further flexibility in requirements governing the reimbursement of expenses and salaries on research projects.

NIH HALTS NON-MISSION-CRITICAL RESEARCH

The NIH announced that it will be shifting all non-mission-critical laboratory operations to a maintenance phase to reduce the risk of coronavirus transmission and protect staff. Read more [here](#).

SAMHSA GRANT FLEXIBILITIES

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has announced flexibilities for grant recipients affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Read more [here](#).

SAMHSA UPDATED FAQs ON OPIOID USE DISORDER PRESCRIBING & DISPENSING

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration released updated FAQs on opioid use disorder prescribing and dispensing during the COVID-19 emergency. Read more [here](#).