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## **Cannabis Control Division reminds public to consume safely ahead of springtime events**

**Santa Fe** – The weather is warming up and the New Mexico Cannabis Control Division is urging cannabis consumers to follow the laws and practice safe consumption this spring.

“Springtime is when we start seeing more outdoor events and an uptick in public consumption,” said **Todd Stevens, Cannabis Control Division Director**. “We want to remind the public and our licensees that it is illegal to consume cannabis in public spaces like festivals, expos, and even at a licensed dispensary that doesn’t have an official consumption lounge license.”

Cannabis should be consumed in an appropriate setting, respecting the rights of others. It should only be consumed at a CCD-licensed consumption lounge or an individual’s residence.

Tips to consume cannabis safely and responsibly this spring:

- Only purchase cannabis from a [CCD-licensed dispensary](#). Cannabis may not be purchased at special events such as festivals, expos, or competitions.
- Never drive under the influence of cannabis. Driving under the influence of cannabis is illegal and puts the public at risk.
- Start low and go slow—cannabis affects everyone differently; know your tolerance to avoid getting overly intoxicated.
- Do not mix cannabis with alcohol or other medications.
- Cannabis bought in New Mexico should stay in New Mexico. It is federally illegal to travel across state lines with cannabis.
- Do not consume cannabis around children and **ALWAYS** store products safely away from children and pets; inside a locked cabinet or other locked storage space is best. Learn more safe storage tips [here](#).
- Remember, you must be 21 years or older to possess and consume cannabis in New Mexico unless you're enrolled in the medical program and carry a qualified patient card.

“Our compliance team will be out inspecting businesses closely to ensure our licensees are following the law and doing what’s required to protect the public,” said Stevens.

To learn more about safe and responsible cannabis use, visit [YesandKnowsNM.com](https://www.yesandknowsnm.com).

To file a complaint against a cannabis business you suspect is not following the law, please visit [rld.nm.gov/cannabis/report-a-violation](https://rld.nm.gov/cannabis/report-a-violation).

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**About NMRLD:**

*The New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department, which houses the Cannabis Control Division, regulates more than 450,000 individuals and businesses in 35 industries, professions, and trades across the state. Its goal is to assure that New Mexicans receive quality services from qualified individuals and businesses while also ensuring a fair and prompt administrative process. To learn more, visit [rld.nm.gov](http://rld.nm.gov).*