STATE OF NEBRASKA

Jim Pillen
Governor

NEBRASKA MEDICAL CANNABIS COMMISSION
301 Centennial Mall South
P.O. Box 95046
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-5046
Phone (402) 471-1531
TRS USER 800 833-7352 (TTY)
mcc.nebraska.gov

Media contact:
Jessica Sodeke, MCC Program Manager

Nebraska Medical Cannabis Commission
MCC.contact@nebraska.gov

MCC Clarifies No Timeline Has Been Established for Medical Cannabis Product Testing

LINCOLN, Neb. — November 10, 2026 — The Nebraska Medical Cannabis Commission (MCC) has not established or announced a timeline for when laboratory testing of medical cannabis products will become available. Recent reporting characterized comments during the Commission's October 19 meeting as indicating that cultivators could be waiting up to two years for testing guidelines. That characterization is incorrect.

The MCC is committed to transparency, accuracy, and clear public communication. The Commission recognizes that uncertainty about testing and product distribution creates planning and financial challenges for licensees. It also recognizes that inaccurate information about the program's progress or anticipated timelines can have significant consequences. For that reason, the Commission takes a cautious, deliberate approach to communicating timelines and program milestones, ensuring that information released to the public is accurate and supported by facts.

During the Commission's October 19 meeting, a licensed cultivator asked about the anticipated availability of laboratory testing and raised the possibility of delays lasting 12, 18, or 24 months. The discussion also addressed prior conversations about cultivators' ability to store harvested product while other components of the state's medical cannabis program were being developed.

When discussing a three-to-six-month timeframe, the cultivator acknowledged that this was what the company had assumed or hoped for based on the pace of licensing approvals, rather than a timeframe the Commission had provided. Commissioner Lorelle Mueting stated that the Commission had not given that timeframe.

The meeting transcript and Zoom recording for the October 19 Commission meeting are available for review on the MCC website.

Multiple Steps Influence Program Development and Implementation

It is not the Commission's responsibility to simply move quickly, but to establish a regulatory framework that serves patients, supports medical providers and responsible licensees, protects public health and safety, and complies with Nebraska law.

The development and implementation of the medical cannabis program involves multiple regulatory, licensing, and operational steps. Some fall within the Commission's authority under the Medical Cannabis Regulation Act, while others depend on external processes, approvals, coordination with other agencies, legislative action, and local government decisions. These various steps are interconnected and can affect the timing of one another.

This means definitive timelines cannot always be provided as early as stakeholders would prefer, but it is important that the Commission avoid creating expectations that may not be met. Such expectations can affect business decisions, public understanding of the program's progress, and patient expectations.

While the Commission may not always be able to provide definitive timelines or individual statements on matters that remain under development, it welcomes factual questions and opportunities to clarify its position and provide context

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about the program's progress. Distinguishing between hypothetical timeframes discussed during meetings and timelines formally established by the Commission is essential to ensure the public has an accurate understanding of the program.

The Commission remains focused on advancing this work in a deliberate and responsible manner, with the goal of establishing a functional, compliant medical cannabis program for Nebraska patients that provides a clear regulatory framework for licensees, avoids preventable mistakes, and makes informed decisions that support long-term success.

The Commission is navigating a new industry, addressing complex regulatory and enforcement questions, and learning from the experiences of other government agencies, industry partners, and qualified subject-matter experts as it develops policies and operational processes.

As additional milestones are reached and details are confirmed, the Commission will communicate developments through its website at mcc.nebraska.gov.

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About the Nebraska Medical Cannabis Commission

The Nebraska Medical Cannabis Commission (MCC) is responsible for administering and overseeing Nebraska's medical cannabis program under the Medical Cannabis Regulation Act. The Commission establishes and implements regulatory requirements for medical cannabis licensees, oversees licensing and compliance, and works to ensure the program operates in accordance with Nebraska law. Through its regulatory and oversight responsibilities, the Commission works to protect public health and safety while supporting a compliant medical cannabis program for Nebraska patients.