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## A Message from the Safety Director

The Office of Safety Director has fielded many questions on recent and anticipated changes to the New Jersey cannabis legislation. Earlier this year, the Safety Director provided Commercial Drivers' Licenses (CDL) and non-CDL model policy templates that reflect the current status of federal DOT CDL and the State's medicinal marijuana rules and regulations. We are closely monitoring developments on the recreational use of marijuana.

We are also receiving questions on CBD (cannabidiol) oil. Cannabidiol is extracted from the flowers and buds of marijuana or hemp plants. It does not produce intoxication. The marijuana "high" is caused by the chemical tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). CBD oil is being credited with helping treat a host of medical problems -- everything from epileptic seizures to anxiety to inflammation to sleeplessness.

The number one question is whether CBD oil will show up in a drug test. The short answer is, IT MAY. According to Marcel Bonn-Miller, an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, "CBD is being produced without any regulation, resulting in products that vary widely in quality. It really is the Wild West," Bonn-Miller said. "Someone who starts up a CBD company could say whatever they want on a label and sell it to people."

Last month, a U.S. Food and Drug Administration advisory panel unanimously recommended approval of the CBD medication Epidiolex to treat two rare forms of childhood epilepsy. "That's really the only area where the evidence has risen to the point where the FDA has said this is acceptable to approve a new drug," said Timothy Welty, chair of the department of clinical sciences at Drake University's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, in Des Moines, Iowa. "For the rest of CBD's potential uses, there is simply too little evidence to make a firm conclusion."

***The Safety Director recommends CBD oil not be permitted to be used by operators of vehicles owned by public employers. For CDL-drivers, CBD oil MAY be detected as marijuana in a Drug Panel since there is no way of truly KNOWING what is in the oil. ANY positive test for marijuana will affect your ability to operate CDL vehicles and must be reported to the CDL Clearinghouse where it will remain on your record.***

Retrieved at <https://www.webmd.com/pain-management/news/20180507/cbd-oil-all-the-rage-but-is-it-safe-effective#1>

***Please share this information widely with leaders of all departments with Department-owned vehicles.***