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**DRUGS**  
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**IN NJ**  
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**HAPPY NEW YEAR**



In the  
**NEWS**

**Bimonthly News Update**

**New Year, New Look! Over the last several months since the launch of this newsletter PDFNJ has received positive feedback about the relevance and importance of this**

**resource. We are pleased to present an updated format of "In The News" that will quickly provide you with more easily accessible information. (Enjoy a new dog picture headline every issue.)**

## **Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy Happy New Year!**

*\*Disclaimer: Articles and links within articles below do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey*

- [\*\*Assembly Approves Measure to Amend State Constitution to Legalize Adult-Use Cannabis\*\*](#)

TRENTON, NJ – The efforts to legalize adult-use cannabis in New Jersey took another step forward legislation that would allow voters to decide if they'd like to amend the State constitution to allow for personal, non-medical use of cannabis by those who are 21 years of age or older was approved by both legislative houses. The Assembly voted, 49-24-1 and the Senate 24-16.

- [\*\*New Jersey's 7th medical marijuana site opening in Paterson\*\*](#)

PATERSON — Steve Demko walked over to his car to smoke marijuana Friday morning as he waited for the mayor to cut the ribbon at one of Paterson's newest businesses.

- [\*\*Could Marijuana Be Made Legal In New York In 2020?\*\*](#)

With support from Governor Andrew Cuomo and many members of the state legislature, 2020 could be the year when New York legalizes the adult use of recreational marijuana. But the issue has become complicated by a widespread lung ailment linked to vaping.

- [\*\*Medical marijuana in the workplace: Striking a balance between safety, disability rights\*\*](#)

Now that medical marijuana is available to patients in Louisiana, employers in the industrial sector face a potential balancing act between workplace safety and workers' disability rights.

- [\*\*New marijuana tests may offer relief for employers\*\*](#)

Marijuana remains a contentious issue in the workers compensation arena, with employers and insurers grappling with the question of compensability after a positive post-accident drug test.

- [\*\*National Survey on Marijuana in The Workplace and Drug Testing Laws\*\*](#)

This national survey is a quick reference resource to the relevant laws and regulations governing how workplaces should respond to the growing trend of legalizing marijuana for medical and recreational use in jurisdictions throughout the United States.

- [\*\*Op-Ed: How Far Cannabis Legalization Has Come This Decade\*\*](#)

Ten years ago, you couldn't buy recreational cannabis in the U.S. It's now legal in 10 states plus Washington, D.C., for people 21 and older. Here's how far cannabis legalization has come this decade.

- [\*\*Puff, Puff, Passed: 2019 Marijuana Laws in Review and 2020 Projections\*\*](#)

With 2019 nearly rolled up, it is time to exhale and recap the latest dose of marijuana laws affecting the workplace.

- [\*\*Medical marijuana in the workplace: Striking a balance between safety, disability rights\*\*](#)

Now that medical marijuana is available to patients in Louisiana, employers in the industrial sector face a potential balancing act between workplace safety and workers' disability rights.

- [\*\*How to Reduce Opioid Abuse in Your Workplace\*\*](#)

The ongoing opioid crisis in America has resulted in the loss of thousands of family members, friends, and co-workers. In 2017, an estimated 70,000 Americans died of a drug overdose, with nearly 70% of those deaths involving opioids. Now, for the first time in U.S. history, a person is more likely to die from an accidental opioid overdose than from a car crash.

- [\*\*Save money and save lives: focusing on addiction in the workplace\*\*](#)

It is that time of year — the annual process of designing your company's fiscal year budget.

- [\*\*Illinois Employers, Unions Prep for Legal Marijuana Jan. 1\*\*](#)

The legalization of recreational cannabis in Illinois could add side letters and other addenda to existing collective bargaining agreements and lead to union challenges if workers are accused of on-the-job impairment due to marijuana use, employment lawyers and labor leaders said.

- [\*\*What Employers and Workers Need to Know About Legal Recreational Marijuana In Illinois\*\*](#)

BELLEVILLE — Ahead of the new year, local businesses and employers across Illinois are trying to determine how legal recreational marijuana will impact them.

- [\*\*Illinois Amends Recreational Cannabis Law to Protect Drug Testing By Employers\*\*](#)

The Illinois Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act (410 ILCS 705) (the "Legalization Act") legalizes recreational cannabis for Illinois adults starting January 1, 2020. The Legalization Act specifically allows Illinois employers to enforce "reasonable zero tolerance or drug free workplace policies, or employment policies concerning drug testing, smoking, consumption, storage, or use of cannabis in the workplace or while on call provided that the policy is applied in a nondiscriminatory manner."

- [\*\*Medical Marijuana Users are Eligible for Unemployment Compensation in Michigan\*\*](#)

The Michigan Medical Marijuana Act (MMMA) grants qualified medical marijuana users who are using marijuana in accordance with the MMMA immunity from “arrest, prosecution, or penalty in any manner.”

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