

Date: April 11, 2022

To:

All LCRB Staff
All Local Governments, Indigenous Nations, and Police Agencies
First Nations Health Authority
Provincial Health Services Authority
All regional health authorities

Re: Managed Alcohol Programs

Current Regulation Provisions

The sale, service, manufacture and delivery of liquor are activities regulated under the *Liquor Control Licensing Act* (Act). Generally, persons involved in these activities require some kind of authorization under the Act (typically a licence or permit).

Some exceptions exist when liquor is provided in a medical context. For example, nothing in the Act applies to medical practitioners or nurse practitioners when liquor is provided in the scope of their profession. Similarly, persons in charge of an assisted living residence or community care facility do not require a licence to provide liquor to a resident or patient.

New Regulation Provisions

The Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation has been amended to add section 192.1, which enables the lawful operation of managed alcohol programs. Among other things, the amendments authorize the sale, service, manufacture, and delivery of liquor in specific circumstances for the purposes of administering a managed alcohol program approved by a health authority.

Managed alcohol programs are a harm reduction strategy that dispense doses of liquor to individuals most vulnerable to experiencing severe harms, including death, related to their alcohol use.

Disclaimer

This communication is intended to be used only for general informational purposes and may not apply to all situations. This communication does not constitute legal advice nor is it a comprehensive statement of the legal obligations that arise under the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*, regulations, or any other applicable laws. When interpreting and applying the information contained in this communication, you are encouraged to seek specific advice from your professional advisors as appropriate in the circumstances.

Further Information

Further information regarding liquor and cannabis control and licensing in British Columbia is available on the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch website at <http://www.gov.bc.ca/lcrb>.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please email the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch at LCRBLiquorPolicy@gov.bc.ca.

If you have any questions regarding the operation of managed alcohol programs, please email Kristen Barnes, Director Substance Use Policy, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions at kristen.barnes@gov.bc.ca.

Original signed by

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