



Frequently Asked Questions About Medical Cannabis Dispensary Operations

Verilife Relocation to 25-27 West Fordham Road, Bronx NY 10468

How long has Verilife held a medical marijuana license in the State of New York?

- Following a highly competitive application process at the inception of New York's medical cannabis program in 2015, we received the State of New York's highest application score to operate as a "Registered Organization" and cultivate, distribute, and retail medical cannabis.
- In simpler terms, we received [LICENSE #1](#) under New York's medical cannabis program. We are extremely proud of this achievement, and now operate as a medical cannabis cultivator in Hamptonburgh, with four retail locations in Bronx-Hunts Point, Syracuse, Buffalo, and Albany metropolitan areas.

Which agencies regulate your operations and have to approve this relocation?

- The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) is currently the sole regulator over New York's medical cannabis program. Within the year, state regulatory oversight will ultimately shift from NYSDOH to the newly-created Cannabis Control Board and Office of Cannabis Management that will oversee the state's medical cannabis, adult-use cannabis, and hemp programs.

Have you applied to state regulators and received approval for this relocation?

- In April 2021, NYSDOH approved the relocation of our Bronx dispensary from Hunts Point, where we have operated since 2016, to West Fordham Rd. We now seek to ensure that local community leaders and CB7 are educated and attuned to our operations, so that we can establish the same rapport, open communication, and comfort level that we have enjoyed in the Hunts Point area for the past half-decade.

Why are you moving from your current location at Hunts Point Ave in the south Bronx?

- We identified the West Fordham site with security, patient access, and practical interior layout in mind. Relocation to a visible, centralized commercial corridor in the borough, ease of patient access, accessibility to public transit, and convenience for more patients who shop, work, and live within the vicinity were our primary considerations in helping us to improve the retail experience of an even greater medical patient population in the Bronx.

What issues related to law enforcement or impact to quality of life did your dispensary have at your previous location at 405 Hunts Point Ave?

- Since we began operations at Bronx-Hunts Point in 2016, we have never had a serious security or criminal incident at the location. Of course, we've had the sort of issues that are not unique to



our operation -- finding that gates or locks have been interfered with upon arrival in the morning, the occasional unsatisfied patron, and similar incidents.

What are the hours of operation at your new facility?

- 9 am to 9 pm are generally our hours of operation.

Describe your clientele? Who will be allowed access to your new location on West Fordham Road?

- We serve medical cannabis to patients who have been diagnosed with severe debilitating or life threatening conditions: cancer, HIV infection or AIDS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury with spasticity, epilepsy, inflammatory bowel disease, neuropathy, Huntington's disease, post-traumatic stress disorder, chronic pain that degrades health and functional capability as an alternative to opioid use or substance use disorder.

Can someone interested in learning more about whether they qualify for medical cannabis walk in for a consultation?

- Those interested in learning more about New York State's medical cannabis program can speak with our dispensary personnel, and we offer information about the state's program. However, our dispensary personnel *does not* make referrals to practitioners.
- The state also offers guidance on the steps interested patients can take to obtain a medical cannabis card in New York, including a list of physicians and practitioners licensed by the state to certify cannabis. See -- https://www.health.ny.gov/regulations/medical_marijuana/practitioner/

Walk us through, in detail, your security plan for the dispensary. Will there be a guard on premises? Will they be licensed to carry a firearm? How are they trained to deal with locals attempting to enter the facility?

- Our comprehensive security plan meets and exceeds state requirements, and operates under a four-phased approach as outlined in greater detail below. In short, our facilities create a criminal deterrent and *enhance* neighborhood safety, as one would be ill-advised to commit a crime near our facility during operational or non-operational hours.
- Security Personnel: We utilize dual-function security staffing to ensure both internal and external security are monitoring the interior and exterior of our premises during all hours of operation, including credential and patient card checks in both the public access area and at the point of sale, with constant surveillance monitoring and external perimeter patrols.
 - Our security personnel generally do not carry firearms; this is in line with guidance from the U.S. Attorney's Office not to have firearms involved with the production and distribution of cannabis (See the U.S. Department of Justice "[Cole Memo](#)"). Instead, our



security personnel are trained to identify issues within the vicinity of the facility and attempt to resolve and de-escalate where appropriate, or escalate a call to the police when necessary.

- 24/7 Surveillance: Verilife dispensaries are equipped with state-of-the-art cameras covering the entirety of the facility premises (except the bathrooms) and along the perimeter facing external entrances, exits, and parking areas.
 - Given the sophistication of our cameras, we routinely work in tandem with local law enforcement to assist in investigations into criminal activity or suspicious behavior that occurs on the outside perimeter to help harden the public safety around our premises.
- Access Controls: A unique ID card is assigned to facility agents and security personnel; patients cannot enter the facility until a facility agent scans them in through the limited access entrance, following an ID-scan of the patient credentials.
- Our Alarm Systems: Our facilities are equipped with 24-7 panic, duress, and motion-activated alarm systems that link directly to local law enforcement in the event of an emergency-activated or motion-activated alert.

Describe how one goes about obtaining a medical card to receive your product?

- Patients will need to consult with a qualified physician or practitioner registered with the NYSDOH to certify medical cannabis, and obtain a certification based upon a qualifying condition for medical cannabis use.
- NYSDOH has a publicly available list of registered physicians and practitioners that are authorized to certify medical cannabis for a qualifying condition; the list of qualifying conditions and registered practitioners in the Bronx is available at:
https://www.health.ny.gov/regulations/medical_marijuana/practitioner/public_list.htm

Under what circumstances would someone without a medical card be granted access to your dispensary?

- Aside from state regulators and law enforcement, only patients, caregivers, and facility personnel / agents registered with the NYSDOH can access the facility. All third-party visitors or service-professionals require approval from state regulators in order to enter the facility.

How many cameras, both interior and exterior, will this facility have? Will the facility have exterior lighting? Where will the product be stored and is it secure? How often will deliveries of product be made and what steps have you taken to assure that deliveries would not be subject to robberies or altercations on the street?



- We will install dozens of hi-definition cameras and motion sensors that cover all portions of the facility and all points of entry and exit; our product is stored in a secure vault compliant with state-required DEA specifications. External lighting will surround the perimeter of the facility.
- We operate a strict oversight procedure to ensure secure deliveries. On a randomized schedule, deliveries are handled by a discrete, unmarked courier who carries product directly into a restricted access area for inventory review and sign-off. The delivery process is monitored by perimeter and internal security, and overseen by the facility's assigned manager.

How many people will be employed at this new location? How many will be transferred from Hunts Point Ave? What is the salary range for these employees? Describe what your relationship is with organized labor?

- We anticipate approximately 25 full-time employees with benefits will be employed at Bronx-Fordham -- with full medical, dental, vision, PTO, sick-leave, and living-wage pay. Managers, security specialists, inventory control, and patient care representatives will serve in these roles.
- We are a proud union organization in the State of New York - UFCW-RWDSU Local 338.

Many businesses tell us they chose Fordham Road because of low rents. Is that your motivation for moving here?

- Low rents were not our motivation to relocate on West Fordham Rd.
- We identified the West Fordham site with security, patient access, and practical interior layout in mind -- located in a visible, centralized commercial corridor in the borough, with ease of patient access, accessibility to public transit, and convenience for the number of people who shop, work, and live within the vicinity were our primary considerations in helping us to improve the retail experience of an even greater medical patient population in the Bronx.

We've been told that delivery of product to your customers makes up a considerable source of your transactions. Explain how that will work?

- The vast majority of our patient transactions occur on-site within the dispensary. We expect the increased accessibility to our new site at Fordham Rd will even further decrease the proportion of delivery transactions, as our patients and caregivers can more easily and conveniently come to the location in-person.
- Patient deliveries are limited, and highly secure. Delivery vehicles are equipped with a lockbox to store product, and a minimum of two courier agents are required to be present in the vehicle to conduct deliveries.



Would you offer a tour of your facility to select members of the community? What additional community outreach will you be conducting?

- We would be delighted to offer a tour to local officials and CB7 members that are interested in learning more about our facility. Seeing the operational layout and facility design firsthand is the best way to learn about the sophistication of the modern cannabis industry.
- Our store management will engage with the Fordham BID, Bronx Chamber of Commerce, the 52nd Precinct, local organizations and neighborhood groups; we have been a good business member of the Bronx since we began operating in New York, and will continue to conduct ourselves accordingly.
- We will join advocacy efforts for the creation of a Bronx Merchants Association.

The surrounding location on Fordham Road is rife with serious quality of life offenses such as prostitution, open drug use, illegal vending and loitering. How can you assure the Community Board that an establishment that dispenses a controlled substance will not exacerbate these issues?

- We dispense medical cannabis to patients experiencing severe and debilitating illness, in a highly secure and regulated environment. We monitor our premises and the vicinity for any illegal or suspicious behavior, and address it accordingly. As we discussed in our security plan, our presence hardens community safety -- it does not detract from it. Individuals will be deterred from engaging in unlawful activity, loitering, or solicitation at or near our cameras and security personnel.

Our community is unfortunately saturated with homeless shelters, substance abuse clinics and other state and city licensed facilities which unfortunately impact our neighborhood's quality of life. Why should we believe that the first medical dispensary moving into a heavily trafficked and populated area in the Bronx will be any different?

- The appropriate comparison to our facility's security and inventory controls is that of a bank.
- In every community that we have operated in six states, including major metropolitan areas of Chicago, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, and the Bronx, we have not negatively impacted the quality of life, but have added a greater sense of community safety through positive foot traffic, continuous surveillance, and security presence.

Describe your long term vision to build a partnership between Verilife and the community? Can you share experiences of how you've built similar relationships with local communities in the other cities you operate in such as Chicago, Philadelphia and Cape Cod?

- We strive to become integrated within our local business community, and participate in organizing and philanthropic efforts that go beyond local job creation and serving our patients. Some examples are outlined below.



- In Chicago, we have a close working relationship with our local neighborhood associations, and we have engaged with them since before opening our store. Through this partnership, we have sponsored a clean streets program that offers jails-to-jobs for individuals reentering into society. Further, we have volunteered in neighborhood park cleanups at and near our store.
- We have partnered with a violence prevention organization working in Chicago's South and West sides to build youth intervention and development programs, and safe spaces for education and recreation. We work to facilitate application and grant opportunities that support and sustain their critical efforts at reducing violence and bringing at-risk youth into a safe environment.