

# Regulate It! –Psilocybin

## Time Place and Manner Recommendations



### Background:

- 3.8% of high schoolers have reported using psychedelics according to the 2023 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey.
- 4.5% of calls to poison control centers from psilocybin are for children less than 6 years of age.
- Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Center has tracked 135 cases of psilocybin exposure during 2024 with ages ranging from 10 months to 92 years old. “Almost all the cases were used to get high, and only 6 cases were attributed to medical or self-improvement reasons.”
- Psilocybin products may be removed from healing centers and administered “off-site” by a facilitator, opening up the risk of diversion and accidental ingestion especially by teens and young children.
- State regulations allow the manufacturing of commercial psilocybin edibles to include soft confections and chocolate increasing the attractiveness of these products to children and teens.
- Peer-reviewed research is limited regarding short-term and long-term physical and mental health impacts on the developing brain.
- Research shows that young people living near marijuana dispensaries have a more favorable view of marijuana. Elected city and county officials should consider that location could also minimize the perception of harm from psilocybin by youth.
- Research also demonstrates that the proximity and density of alcohol and tobacco outlets increase access to youth.

In Colorado this program is overseen by the “Natural Medicine Division”. Teens will receive the message that psilocybin is safe and supports good health, even before the psychedelic industry makes its claims.

### WORDS MATTER:

“Natural” is a word that, to impressionable teens, may be synonymous with “healthy”.

“Medicine” implies a doctor is prescribing for good health.

“Healing Center” suggest that even though no diagnosis, condition, or doctor is required to participate, use is safe and healthy.

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**15 year old Ames O’Neal, fell from a crane on a construction site. The toxicology report was positive for Psilocin.**

## **Time, Place, and Manner Recommendations:**

- Restrict the location of healing centers and all licenses to light industrial only
- Increase the distance of healing centers from schools and child care centers from 1,000 feet to 1 mile
- Require a license to allow for a review of facilities and enable enforcement
- Restrict the number of healing centers to limit density
- Temporary moratorium to monitor impacts on other communities
- Prohibit the distribution and manufacturing of chocolates and soft confections to better protect kids from the risk of accidental ingestion
- Prohibit healing centers and facilitators from removing and administering psilocybin chocolate and soft confections outside of a healing center

## **Additional actions:**

- Allocate resources for a parent/trusted adult public awareness campaign
- Implement robust data collection to measure community health impacts

## **Take the precautionary approach:**

Marijuana and hemp commercialization and normalization have accelerated at a rapid pace since 2014 (i.e. delivery, hospitality licenses, extended hours of operation). Psilocybin licensing is a new regulatory model and cities and counties have the opportunity to limit potential harms.

## **We don’t know what we don’t know.**

Contact [henny@onechancetogrowup.org](mailto:henny@onechancetogrowup.org) if we can provide further information or assistance as your community navigates this new landscape.

Thank you for putting kids first.

**See the [The Gazette Guest Column: Psychedelics pose grave new threat to Colorado kids – December 10, 2024](#)**

One Chance to Grow Up protects kids from THC through transparency, education, empowerment, and policy. We don’t take sides on the politics of legalization but instead serve as a reliable resource for parents, media, policymakers, and all who care about kids. Started by concerned parents, we’re a 501(c)(3) nonprofit supported by charitable contributions.

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