

# Memorandum

**To:** Kevin Jackson, Village Manager  
Lisa Shelley, Deputy Village Manager

**From:** Christina Welter, DrPH, MPH  
Chairperson, on behalf of the Oak Park Board of Health

**Date:** August 12, 2024

**Re:** Recommendation for the Village of Oak Park to ban unregulated tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)

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Unregulated THC is sold in Oak Park often in the form of Delta-8. It has known adverse health impacts, including pediatric death, and is often specifically marketed to children. This memorandum summarizes the Oak Park Board of Health's assessment, findings and recommendation to ban the sale of unregulated tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in Oak Park due to its threat to the public's health. **The Board of Health requests the Village to take the necessary steps to pass an ordinance banning unregulated THC in Oak Park at its earliest convenience.**

## Rationale and Final recommendation

1. Unregulated THC is a threat to our community's health:
  - a. Unregulated THC, often sold in the form of Delta-8 has known adverse health impacts, including pediatric death.
  - b. Many delta-8 THC products are labeled and packaged like popular snacks and candy (gummies, chocolates, cookies, candies, etc.), which increases their appeal among children. Because delta-8 THC is unregulated, there are no restrictions on children of any age buying these products in Oak Park.
  - c. Marketing of Delta-8 is unregulated and often confusing, unclear, and targets children.
  - d. False or poor consumer information about products containing Delta-8 has led to unknown consumption with adverse health impacts. Consumers are unaware of product contents and potential health impacts.
2. Oak Park Partners and Community members are alarmed and concerned about the sale of Delta-8 and request to ban its sale to prevent further harm.
3. The Board of Health voted on June 22, 2024 to recommend the Village of Oak Park to ban the sale of unregulated THC in Oak Park.

## Summary of Board of Health (BOH) activities to support its conclusion

1. Researching unregulated THC, often sold as Delta-8: The BOH researched the health and policy impacts of regulating Delta-8 and related substances.
  - a. Illinois State Police presented to the Oak Park Health Department and other village staff in the Fall of 2023 on the dangers of unregulated THC and Delta-8. This presentation summary was shared with the Board of Health, elevating our concerns of its sale and consumption.
  - b. To research Delta-8 further, the Board of Health collaborated with the Loyola Parkinson School of Health Sciences and Public Health to have a graduate public health student conduct a literature review regarding unregulated THC and Delta 8. The student presented to the BOH at the March, 2024 meeting. The presentation and literature search is available upon request. Overall findings were that Delta-8 is a serious health consideration often specifically marketed to children.
  - c. The Oak Park Health Department prepared educational summaries for social media and the website based on its and the BOH research.
  - d. The BOH reviewed the Elk Grove Village ordinance which bans unregulated THC.
  
2. Public education and partner and community outreach: The Oak Park Health Department and Board of Health members conducted multiple partner and community education and outreach activities to inform and assess awareness of and interest in policy to regulate products like Delta 8. Activities included but were not limited to:
  - a. **Public information:** Information about the sale of and negative health impact of unregulated THC and Delta-8 were made available on the Village Website as well as social media.
  - b. **Presentations and outreach:** In addition, the Oak Park HD and BOH conducted partner outreach to raise awareness and assess support for possible regulation of these products. Examples of partner outreach included the Oak Park Township, the Oak Park Opioid Prevention Taskforce, District 200, and school nurses who have all indicated support for policy related to limiting the sale of unregulated THC. The board of health also presented to the Business Association Council (BAC) at its April, 2024 and staff talked with community partners at the Community Mental Health Board Consortium meeting in July.
  - c. **Community input:** The Board of Health requested community input and public comment at its June 22, 2024 meeting. Nine community members ranging from pediatricians, teachers, parents, grandparents and the general public wrote comments on their deep concerns about the sale of unregulated THC in our community and requested the Village ban its sale. A commentary was also published by an Oak Park youth calling for banning unregulated THC: <https://www.oakpark.com/2024/07/16/delta-8-thc-should-beregulated-for-youth/>
  - d. **Village staff and elected officials outreach:** The Board of Health held meetings with Village President Scaman and in addition, its liaison Trustee Buchanan, who also attended the BOH meeting in April during its discussion on

unregulated THC. In addition, BOH chairperson Welter met with Village Manager Jackson, who recommended submitting a summary memo of our concerns and recommendations for village consideration.

**Discussion, findings and recommendation**

After months of research, discussion and consideration of the negative impacts of unregulated THC and considerable community support, the Oak Park Board of Health voted on June 22, 2024 to ban the sale of unregulated THC. The BOH recommends immediate policy action toward the ban of unregulated THC and requests consultation with village staff and elected officials for next steps to propose an ordinance accordingly.