

WORKERS AT RISK⁴

BAKERS
BUD TENDERS
PACKAGERS
LAW ENFORCEMENT
PROCESSING PLANT STAFF
AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

+ Anyone in contact with live or dried plant, seeds, extracts, or cannabis-derived products.



SYMPTOMS¹

Workers exposed to cannabis in an occupational setting who have an allergic reaction generally experience respiratory or cutaneous symptoms.

NOTE: Allergic sensitivities reported in cannabis consumers comprise a much wider group of symptoms than those listed here.

SKIN

HIVES ITCHING
WELTS SWELLING

BREATHING

COUGH RUNNY NOSE
SNEEZING ITCHY NOSE OR FACE
SHORTNESS OF BREATH

PREVENTION & PPE

More availability of protective equipment and better engineering of the workplace environment may reduce symptoms.^{4, 5}



occupational hazard:

CANNABIS

ALLERGY

DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT

A healthcare provider *may* conduct a skin prick or breathing test to diagnose.² There is currently no cure and no cannabis-specific treatment for allergic reactions to the drug.^{3,6}



Like many plants rich in lipid transfer proteins, cannabis is a potent allergen that can cause debilitating sensitivities. As the business of producing and selling cannabis-based products continues to expand, more workers will experience passive exposure to the drug at work.¹ Here, evidence-based information to consider.

ALLERGEN CONFUSION

Other compounds found in a cannabis workplace might be the cause of allergic sensitivities:²

MOLD DUST MITES PESTICIDES
CROSS-REACTIVITY TO SOME FOODS

1) Decuyper, I. I., Green, B. J., Sussman, G. L., Ebo, D. G., Silvers, W. S., Pacheco, K., King, B. S., Cohn, J. R., Zeiger, R. S., Zeiger, J. S., Naimi, D. R., Beezhold, D. H., & Nayak, A. P. (2020). Occupational Allergies to Cannabis. The journal of allergy and clinical immunology. In practice, 8(10), 3331–3338. 2) Decuyper, I. I., Rihs, H. P., Van Gasse, A. L., Elst, J., De Puyseleer, L., Faber, M. A., Mertens, C., Hagendorens, M. M., Sabato, V., Bridts, C., De Clerck, L., & Ebo, D. G. (2019). Cannabis allergy: what the clinician needs to know in 2019. Expert review of clinical immunology, 15(6), 599–606. 3) Decuyper, I. I., Van Gasse, A. L., Cop, N., Sabato, V., Faber, M. A., Mertens, C., Bridts, C. H., Hagendorens, M. M., De Clerck, L., Rihs, H. P., & Ebo, D. G. (2017). Cannabis sativa allergy: looking through the fog. Allergy, 72(2), 201–206. 4) Decuyper, I. I., Van Gasse, A., Faber, M. A., Mertens, C., Elst, J., Rihs, H. P., Sabato, V., Lapeere, H., Hagendorens, M., Bridts, C., De Clerck, L., & Ebo, D. (2019). Occupational cannabis exposure and allergy risks. Occupational and environmental medicine, 76(2), 78–82. 5) Skypala, I. J., Jeimy, S., Brucker, H., Nayak, A. P., Decuyper, I. I., Bernstein, J. A., Connors, L., Kanani, A., Klimek, L., Lo, S. C. R., Murphy, K. R., Nanda, A., Poole, J. A., Walusiak-Skorupa, J., Sussman, G., Zeiger, J. S., Goodman, R. E., Ellis, A. K., Silvers, W. S., Ebo, D. G., ... International Cannabis Allergy Collaboration (2022). Cannabis-related allergies: An international overview and consensus recommendations. Allergy, 77(7), 2038–2052. 6) Toscano, A., Ebo, D. G., Abbas, K., Brucker, H., Decuyper, I. I., Naimi, D., Nanda, A., Nayak, A. P., Skypala, I. J., Sussman, G., Zeiger, J. S., Silvers, W. S., & International Cannabis Allergy Collaboration (2023). A review of cannabis allergy in the early days of legalization. Annals of allergy, asthma & immunology : official publication of the American College of Allergy, Asthma, & Immunology, 130(3), 288–295. Photos, from top: Calvert, D. 4/24/2023. Tricia Mulroy adds cannabis to retail packaging [photo]. Las Vegas Review-Journal, Las Vegas, NV. Evans, N. 7/22/2015. Cannabis users allowed to grow drugs at home without prosecution say Durham Police [photo]. The Mirror, London, England. Aguilera, E. (6/22/2022). For some California teens, school closures led to work in the fields [photo]. CalMatters, Sacramento, CA. shironosov [stock]. Svitlana Hulko [stock].