



NEWS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

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The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

NMED issues rule banning synthetic hemp manufacturing *Emergency rule protects public from unregulated, dangerous substances*

SANTA FE — The New Mexico Environment Department this week issued an emergency rule banning the production of synthetic cannabinoids — man-made substances like Delta-8 THC — found in some hemp products sold in stores across the state.

These synthetic versions of THC, the primary intoxicating chemical found in cannabis, are often made using chemical processes that can pose serious health risks when inhaled or consumed. Health effects of these products include anxiety, confusion, seizures, trouble breathing, and even death.

The new rule blocks manufacturers from making intoxicating synthetic cannabinoids in New Mexico. It also helps ensure THC-laced substances are not sold to minors, who can currently purchase hemp products legally. It still allows non-intoxicating cannabinoids that meet safety and purity standards.

Most synthetic cannabinoids are made and sold using a loophole in federal law, with little to no safety testing. NMED introduced a bill in this year's legislative session to address this loophole, but it failed to pass in its final days.

Next steps for this rulemaking are:

- **August:** NMED will hold training for hemp businesses on how to follow the new emergency rule.
- **September:** The public will have a chance to comment on a final version of the rule.
- **November:** NMED will hold a public hearing and offer more training to the hemp industry.
- **January 2026:** The final rule takes effect and enforcement begins.

The full emergency rule can be [found here](#).

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