



Before medical cannabis products ever reach a Mississippi dispensary shelf, they must undergo state-required laboratory testing. These tests confirm that every batch is safe for patient consumption.

Every legal cannabis product in Mississippi must include a Certificate of Analysis (COA) showing its lab results. Patients can request a COA at the dispensary.

WHY TESTING IS IMPORTANT

Lab Testing is more than a regulatory step; it helps protect your health by making sure your medicine is:

- Labeled correctly with the correct amount of THC and CBD
- Grown and processed in clean, controlled conditions
- Safe for patient consumption

HOW TO USE A COA

Understanding a Certificate of Analysis (COA) can help you choose the right product for your needs.

When reviewing a COA, look for:

- THC and CBD levels: Do the numbers match what's on the label?
- Terpenes: Do the expected effects align with your treatment goals?
- Contaminant testing: Did the product pass all safety checks?
- Batch number: Does it match the one on the product you purchased?

If you need help reading a COA, ask your dispensary staff. They are trained to help.

WHAT LABS TEST FOR

1. Strength (Potency)

Labs check how much THC, CBD, and other cannabinoids are in the product.

Why it matters:

Accurate potency helps you dose consistently. Too much THC may trigger anxiety or dizziness; too little may not deliver the relief you need.

2. Terpenes

These are natural oils in the plant, which influence:

- How the product smells
- How it tastes
- How it may make you feel (calm, focused, relaxed, etc.)

Why it matters:

Terpenes help you choose products based on how you want to feel, not just THC percentage.

3. Microbial Contaminants (Germs)

The lab tests for harmful germs, such as:

- Yeast and Mold
- Shiga Toxin E. coli
- Aspergillus
- Coliforms
- Salmonella

Why it matters:

These contaminants can make you sick, especially if you have breathing problems or a weak immune system.

4. Heavy Metals

Cannabis can take in metals from the soil or water. Labs check for:

- Lead
- Arsenic
- Chromium
- Copper
- Mercury
- Cadmium
- Nickel

Why it matters:

Too much of these metals can harm your brain, liver, kidneys, or other organs.

5. Pesticides

Labs make sure only safe pesticides are used and that any leftover amounts are very low.

Why this matters:

Some pesticides can cause headaches, nausea, or long-term health risks when inhaled or ingested.

6. Residual Solvents (for Concentrates)

If a product is made using solvents like butane, propane, or ethanol, labs test to make sure only safe amounts remain.

Why this matters:

Too much solvent can irritate your lungs or make you feel sick.

7. Mycotoxins

Labs also test for Mycotoxins, toxic compounds produced by fungi (mold) that contaminate crops such as corn, nuts, and grains.

Why this matters:

They cause severe health effects, including immune deficiency, organ failure, cancer, and acute poisoning symptoms like nausea, vomiting, and dizziness.