

National Poison Prevention Week

National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW) is March 15-21, 2020. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, poisoning is the leading cause of unintentional injury death, and the 7th leading cause of nonfatal injury treated in the emergency department for all ages. Join the Maryland Poison Center in using this week to encourage the public to take steps to prevent poisonings and to be prepared if a poisoning occurs.

How can you help promote National Poison Prevention Week?

- Distribute poison prevention pamphlets, telephone stickers, and magnets to your patients, staff, family and friends. You can obtain materials by using our online order store at <https://mdpoison.com/education/materials>.
- Set up a display or bulletin board about poisons and poison prevention using the information sheets on our website, www.mdpoison.com.
- Give poison education presentations to local schoolchildren and community groups.
- Make sure that every phone at your workplace has a poison center phone sticker, and program the number into your cell phone.
- Promote NPPW through local newspapers, TV and radio.

Here are suggested messages that you can use in your National Poison Prevention Week activities:

- ⇒ Children Act Fast...So Do Poisons
 - Children younger than six account for about half of the calls to poison centers.
 - Medicines and household cleaners should be stored up, away, and out of sight.
- ⇒ Be Prepared for a Poison Emergency
 - Save the nationwide phone number in your phone 1-800-222-1222 or text 'POISON' to 797979.
- ⇒ Poison Centers Save You Time and Money
 - Free, fast, and confidential expert advice is available 24/7.
 - Almost 70% of calls to the Maryland Poison Center are managed at home and without referral to hospital.
- ⇒ Poisonings Span a Lifetime
 - Most calls to poison centers are about children, but teens, adults and seniors are also at risk for poisonings.
- ⇒ Regularly Dispose of Unused and Expired Medicine
 - Take old medicine to permanent drop off locations, or safely dispose of it at home.



#NPPW20 #PreventPoison

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Almost anything can be poisonous ...

... if it is used in the wrong way, in the wrong amount, or by the wrong person.



If you suspect a poisoning, don't take a chance. Call 1-800-222-1222.

Did you know?

The Maryland Poison Center has a full lineup of activities for NPPW. Here is just a sample of what we have planned:

- We will be very active on social media during NPPW! Community partners are encouraged to like and share our messages to their pages. Follow us on Facebook (@MarylandPoisonCenter) and on Twitter (@MDPoisonCtr and @MPCToxTidbits).
- Check the Maryland Poison Center YouTube channel for new poison prevention videos.
- If your organization is interested in partnering with us to promote NPPW on social media, email epaterson@rx.umaryland.edu.
- Base station coordinators at every emergency department in our service area will receive poison center materials.
- Want information on health professional education programs? Send an email to eschuetz@rx.umaryland.edu.