Parents and Caregivers

Keeping your home safe from poisonings calls for a team effort between adults and kids. Our game aims to help your child identify and avoid potential poisons, but it is even more important that adults know how to store items safely in their home. Take some time to scroll through our safety tips:

Kitchen safety tips:

- Children should be reminded that hand sanitizer should only be used on their hands, it should never be swallowed.
- Hand sanitizer contains alcohol. Depending on the amount ingested, it can cause very bad symptoms.
- Alcoholic beverages are very dangerous for young children to drink. Even a small amount could cause a dangerous drop in blood sugar.
- Household cleaners should always be stored out of sight and reach of children.
- Consider using a cabinet lock where you store your cleaners if you have young kids.
- Always keep cleaning products in their original bottles! A common mistake is “container confusion,” when people take a sip of a cleaning product stored in a different bottle.

Bathroom

- Store all prescription and over the counter medications out of sight AND reach of children.
- Consider using a cabinet lock for added safety.
- It is important for parents to teach their children that they should only take medicine given them by a parent or other caregiver.
- Never tell your children that medicine is candy or tastes like candy.

Find your regional poison center at https://poisoncenters.org
• Not all poisons taste bad! Mouthwash often has a minty flavor, but also may contain alcohol.
• Small children like to mimic adults—be thoughtful about how you store cosmetics and personal care products.

Laundry Room
• The color and shape of detergent packets make them extremely attractive to small children.
• Out of curiosity, young children have been known to bite into single-serve detergent packets. Unfortunately, older children have been encouraged to eat detergent packets as part of various social media challenges.
• Store all detergent products out of the sight and reach of children, ideally in a locked cabinet.

Living Room
• E-cigarettes or vapes contain a poison called nicotine.
• Vapes and other tobacco or nicotine products should be stored out of the sight and reach of children.
• Cannabis (marijuana) is legal in many states and is often sold and packaged in forms that look like candy or other treat. Children cannot tell the difference.
• Any type of cannabis product should be stored the same as medications. It should not be stored in the refrigerator or in kitchen cabinets with other food, especially candy.

Bedroom
• Perfume and cologne may contain alcohol, and can be dangerous if swallowed.

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Garage
- Antifreeze, windshield wiper fluid, gasoline, and other automotive fluids can be dangerous if swallowed. These products should be stored out of the sight and reach of children, ideally in a locked cabinet.
- Pesticides and lawn and garden chemicals are dangerous to swallow. They can also be harmful to breathe or to get on your skin.
- Other poisonous household products that might be found in a garage include paint, paint thinner, or pool chemicals.

Outdoors
- Some animals are venomous, meaning they can harm you with a bite or a sting. This includes certain species of snakes, spiders, scorpions, and some marine animals.
- Some plants, berries, and mushrooms are poisonous if you eat them.
- Some plants, such as poison ivy, are poisonous if you touch them.
- Burning poison ivy can result in smoke which can cause harm to your skin, eyes, and lungs.
- Foragers beware! Many toxic plants, berries, and mushrooms look very similar to safe species. Identification can be tricky. When in doubt, do not eat what you’ve picked.

If you are concerned someone may have been exposed to something harmful, call the poison center right away. Do not wait for any symptoms. You can even call if you just have a question!

1-800-222-1222

Specially trained nurses and doctors are standing by 24 hours a day, every single day. They will tell you exactly what to do. Free and confidential.