



News Release

IU Health Methodist Hospital Telephone: (317) 962-2335
1701 N Senate Blvd Contact: James Mowry
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

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NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK HIGHLIGHTS NEED TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM POISONS

Prevention Awareness Campaign March 19-25

Why is it necessary to devote one whole week every March to promoting poison prevention? A look at the numbers provides an explanation. In 2016, the Indiana Poison Center received 55,528 requests for assistance (averaging 152.1 cases per day). In addition, the staff of the Poison Center placed 84,615 calls to patients and health care professionals for follow-up (averaging 231.8 calls per day). The goal of National Poison Prevention Week is to raise awareness about things that can potentially be poisonous and to teach ways to keep children and others safe from poisons.

As a young child's mobility increases, so does his or her ability to reach for a dangerous product. "Young children constantly explore the world around them, touching and tasting everything they see," says **Dr. James Mowry, Director of the Indiana Poison Center**. "The goal of National Poison Prevention Week is to raise awareness about what kinds of things can potentially be poison and to teach ways to keep children and others safe from poisons."

During National Poison Prevention Week, March 19-25, the **Indiana Poison Center** encourages you to take some simple steps to help keep your family safe:

- Choose products and medicines with child resistant packaging whenever it is available
- Replace child-resistant caps tightly *every time* you give or take medicine or use a product

- **Lock** medicines and household products away from children – products placed up high may not be secure since children climb
- Return medicine and household products to a locked storage place *immediately* after use
- *Always* read the label before giving or taking a medicine or using household products – never guess about how to use a product
- Take medicines where children can't watch – they learn by imitating
- Put the number for the ***Indiana Poison Center, 1-800-222-1222*** on or near every telephone. Program the number into your cell phones.
- Make sure babysitters and family members caring for your children also have the emergency number posted in their homes and programmed into their phones.

Poison can be found everywhere. Items commonly found in and around the home can easily become a danger to young children if they are left in the open within easy reach. Such items include:

- Medicines (prescription and over the counter)
- Cleaning products (drain openers, toilet bowl cleaners, oven cleaners, rust removers)
- Automotive products (windshield washer fluid, antifreeze)
- Hydrocarbons (gasoline, kerosene, lighter fluid, furniture polish, hair and body oils)
- Pesticides, herbicides, insect repellents

According to **Dr. Mowry**, “There is no substitute for careful supervision, wherever children live or spend time.” At the same time, it's important to realize that children are fast and curious so that poisoning can happen in the home of even the most careful parent. It can take only seconds for a child to reach for cleaners, pesticides or medications, possibly resulting in serious injury or even death. A young child should never be left alone with a dangerous product. And when not

being used, dangerous products should be stored up and out of the reach of children, preferably in a locked cabinet. Call **1-800-222-1222** even if you just *think* that someone has been poisoned. Don't wait to see if the person gets sick, call the experts at the Poison Center immediately.

To request a free magnet, phone sticker or wallet card and to learn more about poison safety, call the Indiana Poison Center at **1-800-222-1222**, or visit the Center's website at www.indianapoison.org. For a poisoning emergency, call the Poison Center experts immediately at **1-800-222-1222**.

The Indiana Poison Center is an independent, non-profit, agency providing coverage and services for the entire state of Indiana. It serves as both an emergency telephone service and an information resource center, with services accessible to the general public and health care professionals 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. The IPC is the designated Regional Poison Information Center for Indiana and is certified by the American Association of Poison Control Centers. It is a collaborative effort of the Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana University Health, the Federal HRSA Poison Control Program and health care providers throughout the state.