

MISSOURI POISON CENTER

HEALTH FAIR GUIDE

This guide is to be used by the staff, students and volunteers who are participating in a health fair event at places such as schools, health departments, work sites, pharmacies, churches, and libraries among others. Included are facts about the Missouri Poison Center as well as information for you to know so that you are best prepared to answer attendee's questions. You can add poison prevention education to an exhibit which teaches injury prevention, public health wellness, emergency preparedness, or it could be an entire exhibit devoted solely to poison safety. Poison Help magnets, stickers, wallet cards, brochures and posters for your health fair can be ordered from the website, www.missouripoisoncenter.org.

POISON HELP LINE: 1-800-222-1222

MISSOURI POISON CENTER (MPC)

1. The MPC is the poison center for the whole state of Missouri. (There are 55 poison centers in the United States.) The poison center is reached through the nationwide Poison Help line, 1-800-222-1222.
2. The Poison Help line is free and confidential, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
3. A registered nurse or pharmacist answers each call.

KEY POINTS TO COMMUNICATE

1. Be prepared. Program the Poison Help number, 1-800-222-1222, in all phones.
2. Post the Poison Help number near all home phones and let family members, babysitters, and caregivers know where to find the number.
3. When you call the Poison Help line, 1-800-222-1222, you will be speaking directly to one of the registered nurses or pharmacists who are certified as specialists in poison information.
4. Time matters... Don't waste time searching the Internet for an answer. Call anytime for immediate help with your question.
5. No question is too big, or too small – just call.
6. The poison center can help with poison emergencies and with questions about poisoning or questions to prevent a poisoning.

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7. People call the Poison Help line, 1-800-222-1222, for a variety of reasons... such as calls about:

Medicines and drugs (i.e. prescription, over-the-counter, vitamins, supplements, illegal/recreational, or veterinary)

Household and personal care products

Chemicals and pesticides (at home and work)

Plants (i.e. mushrooms, indoor and outdoor plants)

Bites and stings (i.e. insects, snakes)

Gases and fumes

Food poisoning

Questions about adverse or unexpected reactions to medicines or products

8. A call to the Poison Help line, 1-800-222-1222 may help the life of a family member exposed to a dangerous substance.
9. The poison center answers calls in 150 languages through a translation language line service.
10. The poison center helps deaf people by utilizing the Missouri Relay Services or the poison center's website chat services, found on the homepage of www.missouripoisoncenter.org.

WHAT IS A POISON?

1. A POISON is something that causes illness if someone eats, drinks, touches it, or breathes it in.
2. Almost anything can be poisonous if it is used the wrong way, in the wrong amount, or by the wrong person.

HOW DO POISONS GET INTO A PERSON'S BODY?

Swallowed poison

Poison in the eyes

Poison on the skin

Inhaled poison

Bites and stings

WHEN TO CALL 911

1. If someone collapses
2. If someone isn't breathing
3. If someone is having a seizure
4. If someone won't wake up

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HOW TO PREVENT CHILD POISONINGS

1. Use child-resistant packaging. Put tops on tightly.
(Remember that child resistant caps are NOT child-proof)
2. Lock products up so children can't see or reach them.
3. Do not let children watch adults taking medicine. (Children like to imitate)
4. Call medicines by their proper names - Do NOT refer to medicine as candy.

HOW TO PREVENT POISONINGS

1. Read and follow labels before taking or giving medicines.
2. Read and follow labels on household products. Be aware that mixing some household products or chemicals may produce a poisonous gas.
3. Use protective gloves and clothing when required.
4. Store products in original containers.

Education is key to prevention. The Missouri Poison Center welcomes teachers, child care providers, scout leaders, EMS providers and other community educators to use these free resources to teach about poison safety.



BE POISON SMART! KEEP POISONOUS PRODUCTS
OUT OF SIGHT & OUT OF REACH.
WWW.MISSOURIPOISONCENTER.ORG  