Common Calls to Iowa Poison Control from Schools

In 2018, the Iowa Poison Control Center (IPCC) handled 442 calls from school nurses and school staff. Common calls to the IPCC include:

- Identification of medicine brought to school
- Chemical exposure in the eye(s), mouth or on the skin
- Medication errors — student taking or given med twice, wrong medicine given to a student, or student getting the wrong dose
- Medication ingestions for abuse or suicidal intent
- Dietary supplements and herbal substances
- Spider, snake and insect bites, among other critters
- Plant, mushroom and insect bites
- Allergic reactions to medicine or food
- Drug withdrawal concerns
- Food poisoning
- Possible new drug trends
- Inhalant abuse and e-cigarette use
- Medication questions regarding drug interactions, foreign medicines, and side effects
- Chemical spills
- Food or drug recalls
- Tampering of beverages

Be prepared for a poisoning emergency and download the poison control’s contact information into your mobile phone. Text the word “poison” to 797979.

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Did you know …….

The National Poisoning Data System (NPDS) is the only real-time surveillance database in the U.S. De-identified data from poison centers across the entire U.S. is collected in NPDS. Unusual patterns in the data are identified in real-time and automated alerts are sent to the appropriate poison center to determine if the unusual pattern is an indicator of a possible public health threat. NPDS data also helps identify new drugs of abuse and poison trends. Poison centers need your continued calls on all poison cases, even the simple ones.

Call 1-800-222-1222 for Poison Help.