



The Poison Apple

Iowa Poison Control Center's newsletter for Iowa school nurses

1-800-222-1222

January 2019



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.

POISON
Help

1-800-222-1222

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 berry exposures
- 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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Post and share this edition of **The Poison Apple** with your school colleagues. Send comments or questions to 712-234-8775 (fax) or Tammy.Noble@UnityPoint.org.

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