

National Poison Prevention Week: March 21-27, 2004

What is National Poison Prevention Week?

Congress established National Poison Prevention Week more than forty years ago to raise awareness of unintentional poisonings. "Children Act Fast...So Do Poisons!" is the theme of National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW). Over one million poisonings involving small children are reported to poison centers each year. Many of these poisonings could have been prevented. Poison centers organize events during this special week to educate parents and others about which household products are poisonous, how to prevent poisonings from occurring, and what to do if a poisoning occurs.

What can I do to help promote National Poison Prevention Week?

The Maryland Poison Center needs the help of health care providers to reach as many parents, grandparents and childcare providers as possible to keep children safe from poisons. There are countless ways to promote NPPW in your community:

- Distribute poison prevention pamphlets and Mr. Yuk stickers.
- Hand out telephone stickers and magnets with the Maryland Poison Center telephone number.
- Set up a display or bulletin board about poisons, poison prevention, or Mr. Yuk.
- Give poison prevention presentations to local schoolchildren and community groups.
- Send NPPW information to community newspapers and newsletters.
- Give away cabinet latches and a safety checklist.
- Give poison prevention kits to new or expectant mothers.
- Hand out a poison quiz to parents, or organize a poster contest at a local school.
- Collect and discard expired medicines.
- Make sure that every phone at your workplace has a poison center telephone sticker on it.

How do I get poison prevention materials?

Use the order form to obtain materials from the Maryland Poison Center. Fax it to 410-706-7184 by March 5 in order to receive them in time for National Poison Prevention Week.

DID YOU KNOW THAT... You can call the Maryland Poison Center for more ideas and help with promoting National Poison Prevention Week?

Want to set up a candy & medicine look-alike display? Want advice when teaching children about poisons? Need a PSA for local media? Want to borrow a poison prevention video? Call Angel Bivens at 410-706-2151 for more help with your National Poison Prevention Week activities.

