

**UPSTATE**  
NEW YORK  
**POISON CENTER**  
**1-800-222-1222**

June 2023 Newsletter



## Summer Safety 2023

All New Yorkers can agree that New York State is beautiful in the summer! Take a look at our summer safety video highlighting:

- food safety tips
- mushrooms and berries found in nature
- insecticide application
- pool chemical safety & storage
- tiki torch fluid use
- bug spray and sunscreen application
- alcohol and cannabis use & safe storage

***Remember to call us in a poison emergency or if you have questions about any of the above summertime staples.***



The Upstate New York Poison Center is seeing a sharp increase in calls for young children swallowing a cannabis-related product. Many times a child mistook a form of edible (gummy, candy, or baked good) for a piece of candy. Last year, our center handled just shy of 700 cases for cannabis products (overdose, ingestion or for information). A majority of those calls were for children 5 and under swallowing some form of edible cannabis. Kids don't stop at one and don't know dosage.

**To avoid accidental poisoning, have a storage plan for cannabis products:**

1. Keep cannabis in a secure and locked place. Cannabis products should be up high and out of sight and reach of children and pets. Consider using a safe or lock box.
2. Store cannabis products in their original containers and keep the label. Labels on cannabis products from licensed cannabis establishments will have important information including how much THC is in the product.
3. Be sure to store cannabis products away from all other household items.
4. If someone is visiting your home or watching your child or pet in your home or theirs, talk to them about locking up their cannabis.
5. Make a list of cannabis products in your home. Knowing exactly what

cannabis products and how many you have can help with medical treatment in case of accidental ingestion.

**Call the Upstate New York Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 right away if you think a child might have ingested cannabis. We are available 24/7/365 and we are free & confidential.**



New Health Educator Webinar

[Register](#)



In collaboration with NYC Poison Control Center, NYS Office of Cannabis Management,  
& The NY Children's Environmental Health Center:

**The Upstate New York Poison Center presents**  
**Health Education Webinar Series:** **Pediatric Cannabis Exposures**

Presented by

**Vince Calleo, MD**  
Medical Director, Upstate New York Poison  
Center

and

**Maria Mercurio-Zappala, RPh, DABAT,  
FAACT**  
Associate Director, NYC Poison Control  
Center

**June 15 2023**  
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Participants will:

- gain understanding of cannabis exposures in the pediatric population
- review data from New York State's Poison Centers
- view cannabis look-alike products & learn importance of proper storage
- learn about important resources available to educators

Please register: <https://bit.ly/3N95wPv>



## Welcome to our NEW Health Educator

Amy Hoffman-James is joining our team as the newest Health Educator. She brings more than 20 years of community education and partnership outreach experience, including seven years with the Ruth A. Lawrence Poison and Drug Information Center in Rochester. She is excited to raise awareness of poison dangers in the home, and will be working closely with our staff to develop outreach opportunities and deliver safety information throughout our 54 counties.

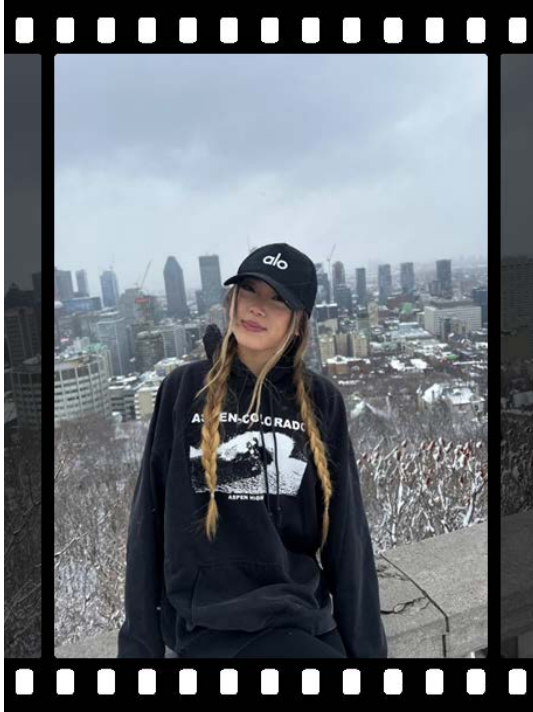
Amy and her husband live in Seneca Falls, enjoy time on Cayuga Lake, and spending time with their children and grandchildren. Their youngest son, now 22, used to join her at community events as a child and still remembers the Poison Center national phone number!

You can reach [her at HoffmAmy@upstate.edu](mailto:HoffmAmy@upstate.edu).

## Student Spotlight

Each semester our poison center has the good fortune of mentoring undergraduate students from Syracuse University's David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics. We are pleased to highlight June Kim.

*"I am a current sophomore majoring in Public Health at Syracuse University. I plan on concentrating on healthcare management and want to go into medical service management as my interest in the financial and statistical side of public health has grown. I chose to become a service learning student with the Upstate New York Poison Center this semester with the intention of teaching others about overdose prevention. I developed and implemented a training on Narcan for members of my sorority and made sure Narcan was readily available in our house. I also designed social media posts related to the topic along with informing followers about the Poison Center and other important campus resources."*



## Community Partnership Spotlight



**Covering 54 counties in New York is no small task. We are so fortunate to collaborate with many county and town coalitions who focus on keeping members of their community safe.**

Contact Mary Beth Dreyer, Health Education Program Manager, at [dreyerm@upstate.edu](mailto:dreyerm@upstate.edu), if you would like to enhance your coalition's efforts in



In Erie County, three coalitions joined forces to deliver programming on 'Safe Medication Use' to seniors in their communities. Coordinators from Springville, Amherst and Iroquois combined their efforts by bringing together their members, including high school students, to establish the 'Support Student Safety (S3) Coalition.' One of the goals of this joint effort was to empower youth as leaders in their

*poison safety or would like to see your coalition's work featured.*

communities. Medication safety was a topic of concern and seniors quickly became a target audience. After receiving Poison Center training from Mary Beth Dreyer, and leadership training from Colleen Kumiega from Hilbert College, high school students working along with coalition leader's guidance, developed a 30-45 minute presentation on safe use, safe storage and safe disposal of medication. Participants receive material from the S3 Coalition, along with medication lock boxes provided by the Upstate New York Poison Center. If you live in the Amherst, Springville or Iroquois area, consider attending one of their important presentations.

Save our number now: **1-800-222-1222**

- We are open 24/7/365
- We are free & confidential
- Specially trained Nurses, Pharmacists & Physicians answer your calls
- We offer community education and professional education
- Visit us at [www.upstatepoison.org](http://www.upstatepoison.org)

## Need more resources?

If you are willing to distribute our materials at outreach events or deliver poison prevention programming, please visit [upstatepoison.org](http://upstatepoison.org) to request free stickers, magnets, brochures, etc. We also have printable activity sheets for children, videos to enhance your presentations, free teacher training, and an interactive poison look-alike game created by the Missouri Poison Center.



### Free Materials

Order free materials.



### Public Education Materials

Download our educational materials.



**Poison Prevention  
Training**  
Help teach poison prevention.



**Look-alike Game**  
"Safe or Poison?"



**Upstate New York Poison Center**

750 E. Adams Street, Syracuse

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