






Spring 2025 Newsletter





**Pool Chemicals** – Always store in their original containers, tightly sealed, and well out of children's reach. Never mix chemicals and follow manufacturer instructions for safe use and storage.


 **Pesticides** – Use only as directed and never spray near food, pets, or children. Apply in well-ventilated areas and keep treated surfaces off-limits until dry.


 **Fertilizers** – Keep off skin, especially hands and feet. Store securely to prevent unintentional contact or ingestion by children or pets. Wash hands thoroughly after handling.


 **Bug Sprays** – Apply in a well-ventilated area, avoiding contact with eyes, mouth, rashes and cuts. Do not allow young children to apply it themselves; supervise use carefully.


 **Alcoholic Beverages** – Never leave alcoholic drinks unattended or within reach of children. Store in a secure location and clean up spills immediately to avoid unintentional ingestion.


 **Lighter Fluid, Tiki Torch Fluid, or Kerosene** – Highly flammable and toxic if swallowed. Store in clearly labeled, tightly sealed containers, far from heat sources and securely out of children's reach.

 **Propane & Gasoline** – Use only outdoors in well-ventilated areas. Store tanks upright, outside, and away from living areas. Check for leaks and never store near heat or flames.

 **Fireworks** – Leave fireworks to professionals. If using sparklers or novelty items at home, store them safely, supervise children closely, and keep a bucket of water nearby.

 **Plants, Berries & Mushrooms** – Teach children never to touch, pick, or eat unknown plants. Some common outdoor plants can be toxic.

 **Sunscreen** – Use a broad-spectrum SPF 30+ sunscreen. Apply 15 minutes before sun exposure and reapply every 2 hours or after swimming/sweating. Supervise children's use and avoid contact with eyes.

 **Sun Safety** – Limit direct sun exposure during peak hours (10 a.m.–4 p.m.). Encourage wearing wide-brimmed hats, sunglasses with UV protection, and lightweight, long-sleeved clothing. Stay in shaded areas when possible and stay hydrated.

*\*\*those working & playing outside (construction workers, farmers, landscapers, lifeguards, kids at camp) need to take extra precautions for sun safety.*

# Pest Free and Poison Safe: You Can Have Both



**Emilie Felicia, BA, MPH**

Upstate New York Poison Center Health Educator



As the weather gets warmer and pests become more active, many people turn to pesticides to prevent, kill, or repel any pest, including insects, rodents, and weeds. While useful, these products can be harmful if not used

properly. The Upstate New York Poison Center reminds everyone to remember these safety tips:

- Read all product labels completely and follow the directions.
- Always wear the recommended personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Keep products in their original containers and labels.
- Check that all lids are closed and tightly sealed.
- Store products:
  - Out of sight and reach of children and pets.
  - In a locked, dry, and shaded area.
  - Away from food, seed, feed, fertilizers, or other products.
- Mix or pour concentrated pesticides in a well-ventilated area, on or near the ground, and away from your face to avoid unintentional exposure in the mouth, nose, or eyes.
- Only mix what you need in the short term and follow disposal directions on the label.
- Never spray near food, pets, toys, or children, and keep treated surfaces off-limits until dry.
- When spraying outside, make sure doors/windows to your home are closed and avoid spraying in windy or rainy conditions.
- Wash hands and other exposed skin with soap and water immediately after use.
- Do not wear exposed clothes and footwear in the home, and make sure to wash them separately from other family members' clothing.

**For questions or if someone swallows, breathes in, or gets pesticide in the eyes or on the skin, contact the Upstate New York Poison Center (24/7/365) at 1-800-222-1222.**

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## Community Spotlight

This month, we are proud to feature **Erin Agnello**, Program Coordinator with the [Injury Free Coalition for Kids of Rochester](#), in our Community Spotlight.

Erin has long been a passionate advocate for family safety, and her dedication to poison prevention is evident in every aspect of her work. She consistently integrates poison safety information and educational materials into her outreach efforts with families throughout Rochester and Monroe County.

In collaboration with the Upstate New York Poison Center, Erin was awarded a grant that allowed her to purchase and distribute over 300 medication lock boxes. This is a major step in reducing the risk of unintentional poisonings in local households. Her commitment shone brightly during National Poison Prevention Week, where she tirelessly distributed brochures, magnets, and giveaways to ensure families had access to poison prevention resources. Erin knows the importance of being prepared and helped share our message of poison safety.

Erin's proactive approach, strong community partnerships, and belief in the power of prevention make her a true champion of poison prevention.

**We are grateful for her dedication and the impact she continues to make in our community!**



UPSTATE NEW YORK  
POISON CENTER

**CALL CORNER**



**Certified Specialist in Poison Information (CSPI):**  
Poison Center, how can I help you?

**Caller:** Hi, I accidentally used shampoo as mouthwash while on vacation. Both were in unlabeled travel containers, so I mixed them up.

**CSPI:** You called the right place. I can help you with that. Can you tell me what happened?

**Caller:** I poured a small amount, about a capful in my mouth; swished it around but then realized it wasn't mouthwash so I spit it out.

*There would then be dialogue between the CSPI and the caller to determine what needs to be done.*

**Caller:** Thank you so much! I'll rinse my mouth and drink some water.

**CSPI:** You're welcome! Take care and call us back if you have any other concerns.

*We'd prefer you to call us, no matter how silly you think the reason might be or what time it is. We've heard it all! Best to be safe.*

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**Register for Our  
Upcoming Webinars**

Register



The Upstate New York Poison Center Presents

Health Education Webinar Series

**"Poison Centers for Everyone... Yes, Even College Students!"**  
What college professionals need to know to enhance student safety.

Presented by	Participants will
Mary Beth Dwyer, MEd UNYPC Health Education Program Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gain an understanding of the Upstate New York Poison Center</li> <li>Hear about sample calls to the Upstate New York Poison Center involving college-age students.</li> <li>Be aware of resources geared toward college campuses.</li> <li>Discuss strategies to incorporate information into student interactions.</li> </ul>
and Emile Felcia, MPH UNYPC Public Health Educator	

**May 29, 2025**  
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Questions: [DwyerM@upstate.edu](mailto:DwyerM@upstate.edu)

Please register: <https://bit.ly/4V0X5u>

## May 29th Webinar

Join us **May 29th** at 10:00 a.m. for *"Poison Centers Are For Everyone ... Yes, Even College Students!"*

Learn how the Upstate New York Poison Center supports college communities, hear real examples, and explore strategies to keep students safe.

Register



The Upstate New York Poison Center in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension presents:

**Staying Safe This Summer: Tips for Inside & Outside the Home**  
June 4th, 2025 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Presented by	Participants will
Emile Felcia, MPH UNYPC Public Health Educator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review common poisoning hazards during the summer and how to prevent them.</li> <li>Learn pesticide safety tips and public education strategies.</li> <li>Discuss how to promote healthier home environments.</li> <li>Learn about resources from the Upstate New York Poison Center, Cornell Cooperative Extension &amp; Pesticide Safety Education Program.</li> </ul>
Isabella Avanzo, BS Healthy Homes Educator Cornell Cooperative Extension	
Cassandra Perout, BS Healthy Homes Educator Cornell Cooperative Extension	
Dan Wixted Extension Support Specialist II Cornell Pesticide Safety Education Program	

Please register: <https://bit.ly/3YH6PTU>

## June 4th Webinar

Join us **June 4th** to learn how to stay safe this summer! Experts from the Upstate New York Poison Center and Cornell Cooperative Extension will share tips on preventing poisonings, using pesticides safely, and creating a healthier home.

Register

# FREE Resources Focusing on our Older Adults

We are always adding to our FREE resources and materials. Click and see below for materials focused just on older adults. You can download and print, or [request materials from our office.](#)



If you would like training for your staff or the older population, please contact Amy Hoffman-James, Public Health Educator, at [HoffmAmy@upstate.edu](mailto:HoffmAmy@upstate.edu).



### Senior Poison Safety Booklet



### List Your Medications Sheet



### Medication Safety Tip Card



### Poison Center Information for Seniors

## SAVE OUR NUMBER NOW: 1-800-222-1222

- We are open 24/7/365.
- We are free and confidential.
- Specially trained nurses, pharmacists, and physicians answer your call.
- We offer community education and professional education.
- Visit us at [www.upstatepoison.org](http://www.upstatepoison.org).



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at Upstate Medical University**

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