

To a Happy and Safe New Year!

The New Year is time for celebration...
but remember to take important steps to prevent poisoning.

Children are curious. In celebrating, don't leave alcoholic drinks out on a table for children to sample when no one is looking. Ingestion of only a small amount of a high percent alcohol can mean a trip to the emergency room for a small child.

Take steps to safely put any cigarettes or smoking devices out of the sight and reach of children. Cartridges in vaping devices can have a high concentration of nicotine which, in any form, can be toxic, especially to a small child.

If serving food, keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold. Rotate food to heat or cool the food every 2 hours to prevent food poisoning. Easy to forget but important to remember.

In the New Year, take actions to prevent poisoning in YOUR home.

Check the dates on all medicine in your home. Dispose of all outdated, unwanted meds by taking them to your local collection sites and not by flushing down the toilet, which leads to pollution. Proper disposal also reduces accidental poisoning and reduces the risk of someone taking your prescription to use illegally.

Cleaning products, including bleach and disinfectants, are meant to clean hard surfaces and are not made to drink, eat or inject into the body or spray on skin. Not ever! Store all cleaning products in a poison-safe location, either in a locked cabinet or up and out of sight of children.

Be sure you have the phone number of the poison center readily available, just in case. Most poisonings are preventable. Call 1-800-222-1222 in a poison emergency or for poison safety information.

