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# **Poison Prevention**

Newsletter

September 2019

**UPSTATE** 

750 East Adams Street • Syracuse, NY 13210

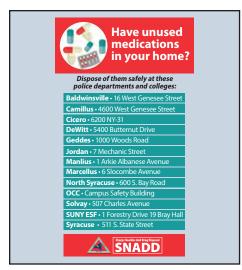




## **SNADD Welcomes North Syracuse**

The North Syracuse Police
Department has joined the SNADD
program, adding a med drop box
in their newly remodeled foyer with
its first pick up in July of this year.
Residents are encouraged to drop
off their unwanted, unused meds,
including narcotics, at the 600 South
Bay Road location during regular
business hours.

The Sharps, Needles and Drug
Disposal Program of Onondaga County
is a complement to the semi-annual
DEA Drug Take Back event. The SNADD
program provides the general public
an opportunity to dispose of unwanted
or expired drugs, including opioids
and other narcotics at their local police
department or at 2 local colleges
during regular business hours. SNADD
promotes safe and easy disposal of
dangerous drugs while reducing
accessibility and availability to these
medications.











### **Meet Our New Team Member**

Allison Mirabito recently joined the UNYPCC team as the first Marketing and Community Relations Coordinator at the Poison Center. Having spent 15 years in the television industry, most recently Allison served as the morning and noon news anchor at CNY Central/CBS 5 News in Syracuse. Originally from St. Louis, Missouri, she received a bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Missouri followed by a Master's Degree in Integrated Marketing Communication from Marist College. While her career in journalism began in Pennsylvania, it has taken her to Florida, Tennessee, Connecticut, New Jersey and finally to Central New York. With a bit of influence from her husband, a CNY native, the family has now called the region home for 4 and one-half years. In deciding a career change, Allison felt the Poison Center would be a great fit, giving her an opportunity to focus on public relations and marketing efforts while spreading awareness about the work of the Upstate New York Poison Center throughout the Center's 54-county service area. Welcome aboard, Allison!





## National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is October 26

The next **National Prescription Drug Take Back Day** will be October 26, 2019. National Take-Back Day is a safe, convenient and responsible way to dispasse of unused or expired prescription drugs.

The April 2019 Take Back Day brought in **937,443 pounds (468.72 tons)** of unused or expired prescription medication.

This brings the total amount of prescription drugs collected by the DEA since the fall of 2010 to **11,816,393 pounds.** 





## **Back to School Safety 2019**

Time for Back TO School! The transition between summer vacation and the back to school routine can seem overwhelming. Many healthy habits are long forgotten. The Upstate New York Poison Center reminds parents, grandparents, child caregivers and children: Take time to prevent poisonings!

The following tips may help you prevent a poisoning before it happens:

#### **Silica Gel Crystal Packets**

Throw away every packet of silica gel crystals that came with new shoes or backpacks. Although non-toxic, they can pose a choking hazard to children. Teach your kids to toss the packets in the trash without even opening them.

#### **Hand Sanitizers**

Hand sanitizers can lead to poisonings and should not be included in a young child's backpack. If using it in the classroom or at home, teach children that less than a dime-sized

amount of sanitizer is adequate to clean hands. Hands should be rubbed together until dry. Hand washing with soap and hot water is still the most effective method to remove dirt and germs.

#### **Boxed Lunch**

It is most important to keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold to prevent food poisoning so be sure to pack appropriate lunch items that will not spoil in a lunch box. Washing fruit and vegetables beforehand helps remove dirt, bacteria and pesticides. Encourage children to wash their hands every time before enjoying their lunches.

#### Medication

Talk to children about proper use of medication. Your school has a medication policy so be sure to find out what it is and discuss it with your child.

Carefully read and follow directions and warnings on all labels before

taking or giving medicine. Help your children learn by setting a good example.

Be sure to talk to your child about what to do with any medication they might find lying around in the home, in school or elsewhere. Explain the dangers of meds and tell them never to ingest or even touch any pill they may find.

Teach your children never take medicine meant for another, it could be a deadly mistake.

**Remember**: In a poison emergency or for poison prevention information call the Upstate New York Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222!



### **Poison Safety Materials at the Website**

The Upstate New York Poison Center's Website offers educational information on many topics of interest around poison safety. At the site, you will find webinars, videos, guides, handouts, flyers available for your use in poison prevention with all ages, such as:

- The Truth About Vaping (webinar and handout)
- Marijuana, the FACTS (webinar and handout)
- Teacher's Guide 62 pages including lesson plans for all age groups with activity sheets ready to print
- Safe Meds and Safe Disposal videos geared for teens
- Senior Safe Medication Presentation
- Brochures on Medication Safety, Poison Safety Information, Plants, Carbon Monoxide and more...
- Look Alikes Flipchart matching sets of products, one poison, one food product that can be confusing to any age group
- Stop Ask First video for pre-school grade 2 featuring our poison safety heroes, Mellie and Zipper and a catchy tune your students and children will love to sing

So, as you plan your fall activities take a look at the Upstate New York Poison Center's website at *www.upstatepoison.org*, where you will find poison safety messages for every age group.

And as always, we are here to answer your questions or help you plan a poison safety lesson for your students.



