

## The POISON CENTER CELEBRATES 65 YEARS!!!

The Upstate New York Poison Center operates as a model of excellence as a state-designated regional poison center under the NYS Department of Health. Since our start up in 1957 as the Central New York Poison Center, we expanded from a 14-county service area to now serve 54 of the 62 counties of NYS. In 2006, we announced a name change, becoming the Upstate New York Poison Center, to better align with the geographic location of our new service area and the name of our host institution, Upstate Medical University.

We assist both the medical community and the public with poison emergencies by providing state-of-the-art management expertise with a goal of reducing the number, the cost, and the severity of poisonings in NYS. Poison center staff provides telephone management for poisonings 24/7 to 54 counties, 125 hospitals and to a population base of 7.3 million people. The clinical and education staff are committed to positioning the Poison Center as **The Call to Make For All Things Poison.**

Our staff has grown over the years to accommodate the population we serve with 21 clinical and medical toxicologists and 21 specialists in poison information (SPIs). Our

public education team now consists of three full-time educators and a dedicated marketing coordinator.

Each year our center manages close to 50,000 calls from healthcare providers, 911 operators, hospitals, industry, schools, and the public.

### Vision

The demand for the services of the Upstate New York Poison Center grows, especially as new drugs and other potential poisons are

introduced to our communities.

While still in the throes of a pandemic, when most face-to-face outreach was at a standstill, our poison center continued to expand outreach using several strategies: Instagram, to engage a new audience; educational videos posted on-line to create awareness; news releases on current topics such as the dangers of hand sanitizers during Covid and also on marijuana edibles to keep our population informed. Additionally, we expanded our webinar offerings, based on the identified needs of our population served, and provided new educational and marketing tactics geared to expand our online audience.

### Strategy

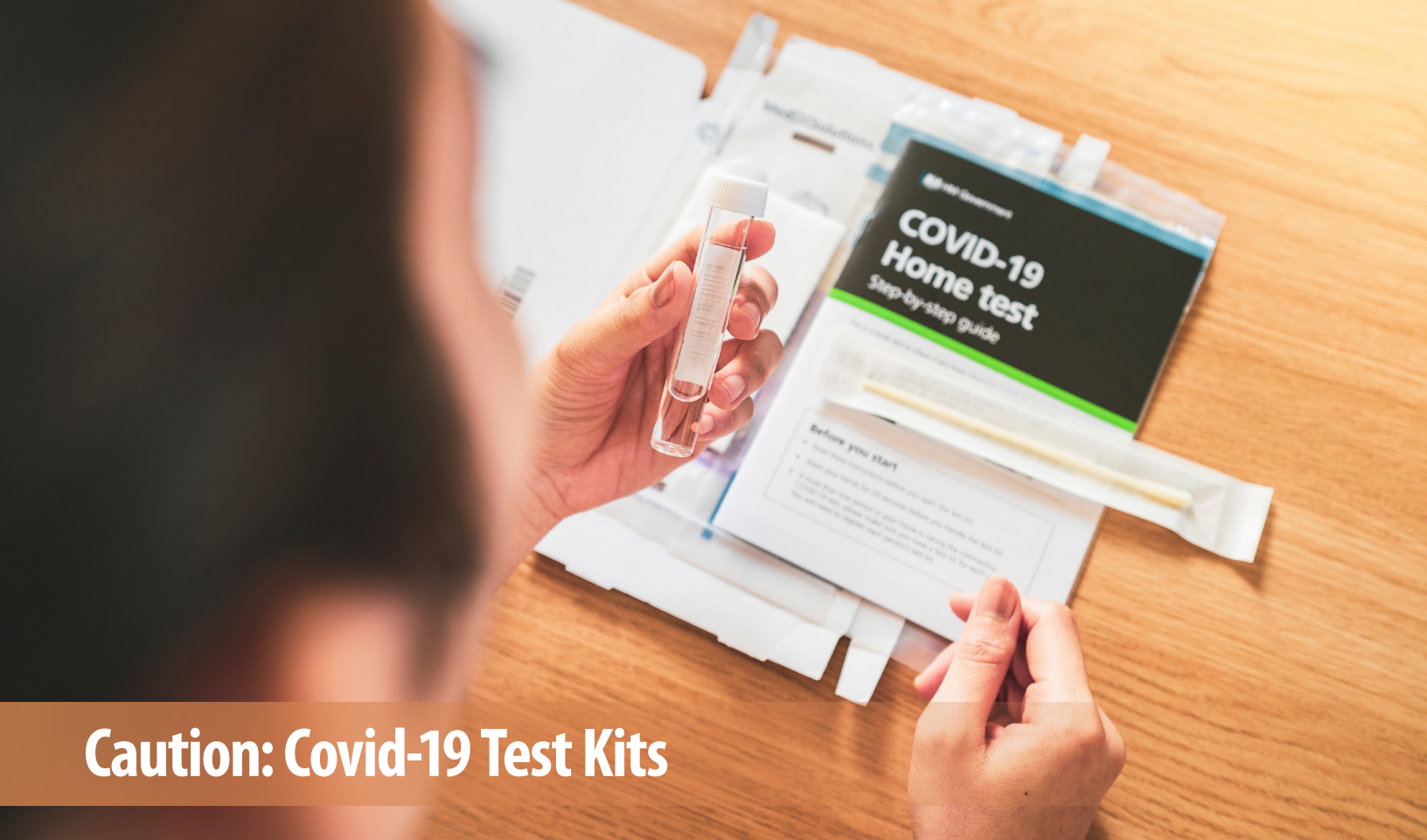
Throughout the year of celebration and beyond, the UNYPC staff will continue to position the poison center as "THE CALL TO MAKE FOR ALL THINGS POISON". Our goal is to continue to achieve recognition as a valued and an essential service for both poison emergencies and poison information throughout our service area.

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### 2021 Highlights:

- Managed 49,974 exposure calls
- Managed 96,440 with callbacks & follow-ups
- 68% of all our calls were managed at home, reducing unnecessary visits to a health care facility
- With 90% of calls about children aged 5 and under managed at home
- 65% of our calls were unintentional
- 15% were information-only calls to prevent poisonings before they happen





## Caution: Covid-19 Test Kits

As the distribution of at-home Covid-19 test kits rolls out through local school districts, community distribution sites and even through the United States Postal Service, the poison center suggests these new kits be used safely.

There are a number of different at-home Covid-19 test kits available. Each kit contains potentially dangerous compounds in the small liquid bottles found in each kit. That liquid creates the chemical reaction necessary to produce a positive or negative result. Fortunately, as each test kit contains only a small amount of these toxic chemicals, most people would not become severely ill from a single accidental exposure.

However, to a young child, a small bottle can look like a treasure, which could lead to an ingestion. Dr. Vince Calleo, UNYPC medical director cautions

that each case is unique and recommends a call to the poison center with any questions. If symptoms develop, he points out that it is important to call the poison center or seek immediate medical attention.

To date, the Upstate New York Poison Center has received more

than a dozen calls in regard to these products.

**Remember, the Upstate New York Poison Center is the call to make for all things poison.** In case of a poisoning or for information, call our free service at **1-800-222-1222**.

### Steps to take to avoid a poisoning:

- Promptly remove the Covid-19 test kit from your child's backpack.
- Store the kit, like all medications and household chemicals, up and out of sight and reach of children.
- Read kit instructions and follow directions to ensure accurate test results.
- When finished using the kit, immediately place in the trash.
- Contact the Upstate New York Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 with any questions or concerns.



# Be on the LOOKOUT



**March 24, 2022**

**10 am – 11:30am**

**Health Educator  
Webinar Series**

**Cannabis 2022**

**Mike Hodgman, MD, FACMT**  
past UNYPC Medical Director

**Register here:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/yebm77v2>



## Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in Edibles

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that 48.2 million people in the US used cannabis in 2019<sup>1</sup>. Cannabidiol (CBD) and THC are two main compounds in cannabis. THC affects the way the brain works and produces a “high” sensation. It can enter the body by smoking cannabis but it is also found in oils, edibles, tinctures, capsules. Edibles with THC can be much more dangerous for children, who might eat them accidentally.



Remember to keep these products out of reach and out of sight of children. Keeping them in medication lock boxes may help prevent unintentional exposures.

1. Retrieved: 2/22: <https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana/index.html>

### The Upstate New York Poison Center wants you to know:

- It may take longer to feel the effects of the edible form of THC products than from smoking THC. In fact, effects may be delayed up to a few hours after ingestion.
- The effects from edible THC may last longer than the effects from smoking THC.
- Some forms of edible THC can be easily confused with regular foods, like gummies or brownies.
- Some states saw increases in pediatric exposures to THC products after THC was legalized.
- Children may experience more severe effects after ingesting an edible THC product.
- Children exposed to edible THC can develop concerning symptoms. Symptoms can include changes in heart rate, difficulty breathing, vomiting, change in mental status, and even seizures.



**The Upstate New York Poison Center announces our Poison Prevention Education Training for teachers- and by that we mean ANYONE interested in teaching others about poison safety.**

**Check out our website for more details:**

**[www.upstatepoison.org](http://www.upstatepoison.org)**



**March 20-26, 2022 is**

**National Poison Prevention Week.**

**Take time to prevent a poisoning!**



## Action Plan

Our year-long celebration plan will include social media posts, educational efforts, community engagement and interactions with governmental agencies to create a balanced calendar of activities to increase poison center awareness. Our goal is to position the Upstate New York Poison Center as **"THE CALL TO MAKE for ALL THINGS POISON."**

If you would like to join in the celebration of our 65th anniversary AND spread the word of poison safety here are some steps you can take:

1. Follow us on social media = Twitter: @UpstatePoison & Facebook/Instagram: @UpstateNewYorkPoison
2. Tweet/post how the poison center has helped your organization & tag us
3. Visit our website to explore our exciting teaching tools, webinars, videos and more
4. Join us at the Utica Comets' game on April 1st as we sponsor the event
5. Take part in our Health Educator webinars (Cannabis and CBD -March 24th at 10 am)
6. Share our poison center videos:  
<https://www.upstate.edu/poison/community/videos.php>

**SNADD** offers a solution for the safe disposal of household medications in Onondaga County. As a collaborative effort, local police departments act as collection sites for both over-the-counter and prescription medications. The program helps to reduce the availability of all drugs in the home reducing the risk of someone taking a medicine by mistake or someone taking a medication for their use. Most locations below also have needle kiosks for sharps drop-off. Outside Onondaga County, be sure to look for drug take-back collection sites in your county!

### 2021

Burn Date	B'ville	Camillus	Cicero	Dewitt	Geddes	Jordan	Manlius	Marcellus	OCC	SPD	Solvay	Nsyr	ESF	Pounds	Miles
9/29/21	85	100	100	70	15	5	70	10	5	30	15	15	0	520	150
11/11/21	85	100	30	70	10	5	60	5	10	15	15	15	0	420	150
12/17/21	25	60	30	45	5	5	55	5	5	15	10	10	50	320	150

### 2022

Burn Date	B'ville	Camillus	Cicero	Dewitt	Geddes	Jordan	Manlius	Marcellus	OCC	SPD	Solvay	Nsyr	ESF	Pounds	Miles
1/27/22	80	105	90	70	10	5	70	25	5	10	10	10	30	520	150



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