



FLORIDA/USVI POISON INFORMATION CENTER - JACKSONVILLE

655 West Eighth Street, Box C-23

Jacksonville, Florida 32209

floridapoisoncontrol.org 904.244.4465 (o) 904.244.4063 (f)

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: *Brie Burge*

Media Relations/Education Associate

burge@poison.ufl.edu 904.244.7978

POISON CONTROL CENTER CELEBRATES 25th ANNIVERSARY IN CONJUNCTION WITH NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK

JACKSONVILLE, FL (March 15, 2018) — The Florida/USVI Poison Information Center - Jacksonville is celebrating a special anniversary during National Poison Prevention Week, March 18th through the 24th.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the center initiating 24-hour service, available to assist the public around the clock. The center is kicking off National Poison Prevention Week by hosting a celebration on the UF Health Jacksonville campus to commemorate the anniversary.

"All of us are honored to have the opportunity to provide quality care to millions of Florida residents over the past quarter century," said Dr. Jay L. Schauben, Director of the Florida/USVI Poison Information Center – Jacksonville. "In the last 25 years some of our functions have changed. We are now directly involved in public health surveillance and as a support arm of the Florida Department of Health during a public health event/emergency. What has not changed is our commitment to our patients and health care professionals using our services, and the dedication to reducing accidental poisonings through public education."

In addition to hosting a 25th anniversary event at UF Health Jacksonville on Monday, Center staff in collaboration with local partners will host events throughout National Poison Prevention Week. Poison Center education staff along with the student chapter of the Florida Society of Health-System Pharmacists/University of Florida College of Pharmacy will provide poison prevention information and free educational materials to the public. Below is a schedule of the week's events:

Monday, March 19th

25th Anniversary Celebration
UF Health Jacksonville
Learning Resource Center Atrium
3pm to 5pm

Tuesday, March 20th

Poison Prevention Tabling
Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens
Main Camp
9am to 4pm

Wednesday, March 21st

Poison Prevention Tabling
Nemours Children's Clinic
First Floor Lobby
9am to 4pm

Thursday, March 22nd

Poison Prevention Tabling
Nemours Children's Clinic
First Floor Lobby
9am to 4pm

Friday, March 23rd

Poison Prevention Tabling
Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens
Main Camp
9am to 4pm

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In 2017, the three Centers comprising the Florida Poison Information Center Network handled 135,914 incoming calls, including 108,428 that were reported as known or possible exposures to potentially toxic substances (drugs, chemicals, bites/stings, food poisoning, etc.). More than 86% of those who called with poison emergencies from home were managed safely at home without the need for an emergency room facility visit. Statewide, the Florida Poison Information Center Network saved an estimated \$299 million dollars in health care costs by reducing unnecessary emergency room visits and by helping to get patients admitted to a hospital for poisoning discharged sooner.

If interested in reporting on one of our events, or to schedule an interview, please contact Brie Burge, Media Relations/Education Associate, at 904.244.7978 or burge@poison.ufl.edu.

The mission of the Florida/USVI Poison Information Center - Jacksonville is to provide exceptional care for individual patients and for supporting public health through information, surveillance, education, and research. Experts staff the Poison Help Hotline at 800.222.1222 that provides free, confidential, expert medical advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year from toxicology specialists, including nurses, pharmacists, physicians, and poison information providers.

The Florida/USVI Poison Information Center - Jacksonville is a cooperative effort between the University of Florida College of Medicine, UF Health Jacksonville, the University of Florida Health Science Center - Jacksonville, and the State of Florida, Department of Health, Children's Medical Services. The Florida/USVI Poison Information Center - Jacksonville is designated as an accredited regional poison control center by the American Association of Poison Control Centers. To learn more, visit floridapoisontcontrol.org, like us on [Facebook](#), and follow us on Twitter ([@FloridaPoison](#)).

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Gadsden · Gilchrist · Gulf · Hamilton · Hernando · Holmes · Jackson · Jefferson · Lafayette · Lake · Leon · Levy · Liberty
Madison · Marion · Nassau · Okaloosa · Putnam · Santa Rosa · St. Johns · Sumter · Suwannee
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United States Virgin Islands

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