



FLORIDA/USVI POISON INFORMATION CENTER - JACKSONVILLE

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FLORIDA'S POISON CONTROL CENTERS CELEBRATE NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK

JACKSONVILLE, FL — The Florida/USVI Poison Information Center - Jacksonville will join the nation's other 54 poison centers in celebrating National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW) March 19th through the 25th.

Since 1962, the President of the United States has proclaimed the third week of March as National Poison Prevention Week to raise awareness about the dangers of poisonings and how to prevent them. This year will focus on several poison-prevention themes:

- Monday, March 20th – Children Act Fast... So Do Poisons
- Tuesday, March 21st – Poison Centers: Saving You Time and Money
- Wednesday, March 22nd – Poisonings Span a Lifetime
- Thursday, March 23rd – Home Safe Home
- Friday, March 24th – Medicine Safety

In addition, the Florida/USVI Poison Information Center – Jacksonville is participating in the nationwide launch of a new text-to-save tool, making it easy for people to save the Poison Help hotline in their cell phones. Anyone with a smartphone can text the word "poison" to 797979 to receive a link to download a vCard that is pre-loaded with contact information for direct access to a poison control center.

"Poisonings can happen anytime to anyone," said Dr. Jay L. Schauben, Director of the Florida/USVI Poison Information Center – Jacksonville. "National Poison Prevention Week is a time to remind the public that the specially trained nurse, pharmacist and physician experts are just a phone call away, 24 hours a day, seven days a week to help with any poisoning emergency or to answer questions. Be prepared and program your cell phone with the Poison Help number 1-800-222-1222."

In 2016, Florida's Poison Control Centers handled 146,664 incoming calls, including 108,498 calls about human exposures to poisons. The Centers also received 38,095 calls requesting poison information and placed 162,505 follow-up calls back to patients to check on their status. More than 86% of the people who called with poison emergencies were managed on-site without referral to a healthcare facility.

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During National Poison Prevention Week, local partners will host community events to provide poisoning information and free educational materials. Poison center staff along with the student chapter of the Florida Society of Health-System Pharmacists/University of Florida College of Pharmacy will be available as follows:

Tuesday March 21 st	Wednesday, March 22 nd	Thursday, March 23 rd
Adventure Landing Jacksonville Beach	Nemours Children's Clinic	Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens
11:00am to 3:00pm	11:30am to 3:30pm	10:00am to 4:00pm

In addition, students that participated in the regional poster and video PSA contests will be recognized during the month at their various schools. These contests coincide with National Poison Prevention Week and promote poison safety awareness in the community.

For more information or to schedule an interview, the media may 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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