



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Poison Prevention for a Lifetime: National Poison Prevention Week 2020**

**Arlington, VA** – The American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) celebrates National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW), March 15-21, 2020. The theme for this year is *Almost anything can be poisonous... if it is used in the wrong way, in the wrong amount, or by the wrong person.* In 1961, the United States Congress designated the third week in March as NPPW, a week dedicated to raising awareness about poisonings in the U.S. and highlighting strategies for prevention.

On Monday, March 16, the HRSA Public Health Webinar Series kicks off NPPW with a webinar dedicated to recognizing the important role poison centers play in the communities they serve. Additionally, Poison control centers will host a #PoisonChat (via Twitter) at 1:00 PM ET to encourage communities to participate in poison prevention across all ages. Additionally, on March 17, Dr. Mazda Shirazi, Medical Director, Arizona Poison & Drug Information Center, will provide an overview of poison control centers during the Outbreak News Podcast. On March 19, AAPCC will host the National Poison Prevention Week video contest Grand Prize winner at the central office in Arlington, Virginia.

Poisonings can happen to anyone. Just under half of calls to poison control centers involve children, however, poisonings occur in teens, adults, and older adults and usually are more serious. “In 2018, poison control centers responded to approximately 2 million cases, the majority of cases were a result of an unintentional exposure to a substance,” said Dr. Mark Ryan, PharmD, AAPCC Board of Directors President. National Poison Prevention Week allows poison control centers the opportunity to educate the public on poison prevention, as well as raise awareness to the vital services provided free of charge via our national Poison Help number, 1-800-222-1222.

The nation’s 55 poison control centers provide services to the U.S. population in all 50 states and U.S. territories. Poison centers save lives and protect the health of Americans through direct medical consultation, data collection and monitoring, and educational outreach. AAPCC reminds the public that in case of potential poison exposure, call the Poison Help hotline at 1-800-222-1222. To save the number in your phone, text POISON to 797979. Poison experts are available 24/7 to offer free expert advice. Please visit [aapcc.org](http://aapcc.org) to receive more information on emerging hazards.

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