



## AAPCC NEWS RELEASE

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For More Information, Contact:  
Edward Walrod, Associate Manager  
Media and Public Relations  
[walrod@aapcc.org](mailto:walrod@aapcc.org); 703-894-1863

### **HIGH ALERT: Intentional Exposures Among Teens to Single-Load Laundry Packets Continue to Rise**

**Alexandria, VA** – The American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) expresses continued concern over the improper use of single-load laundry detergent packets as the number of intentional exposures among teenagers rises.

Last week, AAPCC reported that during the first two weeks of 2018, the country's poison control centers handled thirty-nine intentional exposures cases among thirteen to nineteen year olds. That number has increased to eighty-six such intentional cases among the same age demographic during the first three weeks of 2018.

“Since our first alert to this life-threatening activity, the trend of intentionally ingesting single-load laundry packets has increased in its popularity despite repeated warnings,” said Stephen Kaminski, JD, AAPCC’s CEO and Executive Director. “During the first two weeks of 2018, poison control centers handled 39 cases of teens intentionally exposed to a liquid laundry packet. In just the past week, we’ve seen another 47 cases, for a total of 86 between January 1 and January 21, 2018. We cannot stress enough how dangerous this is to the health of individuals—it can lead to seizure, pulmonary edema, respiratory arrest, coma, and even death. If you or a loved one misuses a laundry packet or has a question about the risk of exposure to one, immediately contact the national Poison Help hotline at 1-800-222-1222 or text Poison to 797979 to save the number in your phone. Our poison control experts are available 24/7 and free of charge.”

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#### **Contact**

Edward Walrod, AAPCC’s Associate Manager of Media and Public Relations, 703-894-1863, [walrod@aapcc.org](mailto:walrod@aapcc.org)

**About American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC)**

AAPCC supports the nation's 55 poison center members in their efforts to treat and prevent drug, consumer product, animal, environmental and food poisoning. Members staff the Poison Help hotline at 1-800-222-1222 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. In addition, AAPCC maintains the only poison information and surveillance database in the United States, providing real-time monitoring of unusual poisoning patterns, chemical exposures and other emerging public health hazards. AAPCC partners with federal agencies such as HRSA, CDC, FDA and EPA, as well as private industry. **Be prepared for a poisoning emergency and download poison control's contact information today. Text "poison" to 797979.**