



For Immediate Release
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AAPCC NEWS RELEASE

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ALERT: American Association of Poison Control Centers Warn About Potential Poison Exposure to Single-Load Laundry Packets

Alexandria, VA – The American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) strongly warns individuals about the dangers of using single-load laundry packets other than as intended. Proper storage is advised to reduce the chances of potential harmful exposure to these products.

During the past five years, poison control centers have received well over 50,000 calls relating to liquid laundry packet exposures. While unintentional misuse by children five and under accounted for the majority of these calls, a recent trend among teenagers ingesting the packets— and uploading videos to various internet platforms including video-sharing websites, social media, and vlogging platforms— has caused significant concern among poison control centers.

According to AAPCC data, in 2016 and 2017, poison control centers handled thirty-nine and fifty-three cases of *intentional* exposures, respectively, among thirteen to nineteen year olds. In the first fifteen days of 2018 alone, centers have already handled thirty-nine such *intentional* cases among the same age demographic. Ingestion accounted for ninety-one percent of these reported exposures.

“The ‘laundry packet challenge’ is neither funny nor without serious health implications,” said Stephen Kaminski, JD, AAPCC’s CEO and Executive Director. “The intentional misuse of these products poses a real threat to the health of individuals. We have seen a large spike in single-load laundry packet exposures among teenagers since these videos have been uploaded.”

The resulting health implications from misuse can be serious. Known potential effects include seizures, pulmonary edema, respiratory arrest, coma, and even death.

“Everyone needs to be aware of the dangers of swallowing the contents of a single-load laundry packet. Only use the packets for their intended use and be sure to store them up and away,” said Kaminski. “If you or a loved one misuses a liquid laundry packet or has a question about the risk of an exposure to one, a poison control expert can be reached 24/7 at 1-800-222-1222.”

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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.**