

For Immediate Release

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Invite Mr. Yuk to your holiday gatherings

It's that time of year again. The decorations are going up, holiday cards are being stamped, and homes are being readied for visitors. In all the excitement, don't forget to invite Mr. Yuk to your holiday gatherings.

Mr. Yuk is that scowling green sticker in many households across Washington reminding people to use and store dangerous items safely. The sticker also has the national toll-free poison help phone number: **1-800-222-1222**. Be sure to take the number with you – it will connect you to the Poison Center covering your calling area -- in or outside Washington State. Remember, the Poison Center can help everyone – children, adults, seniors and pets.

Whether you are hosting or visiting with family and friends, run a “poison safety check” for children, senior citizens or pets. Look for:

- Purses/suitcases** – contain medications and vitamins, make-up, perfume/cologne, cigarettes
- Guest bathrooms/bedrooms** – contain cleaning products, toiletries, medications, herbal supplements
- Santa stockings** – contain perfume, make-up, chocolate (danger to dogs), caffeine
- Gifts** – contain make-up, perfume/cologne, chocolate, alcohol, caffeine
- Party leftovers** – such as alcoholic/caffeine drinks, cigarette butts
- Other** – designate smoking outside, floors cleared of toys, stairs/hallways well lit, de-ice outside path

Ask for, or provide your guests with a secure place to keep medications, such as a locking drawer, suitcase or box. Place chocolate out of reach of dogs. Store purses and diaper bags out of sight.

Call Mr. Yuk (Poison Center) at **1-800-222-1222** if you have a poison emergency or question. You will be automatically connected to specially trained nurses, pharmacists and other poison specialists.

1-800-222-1222 is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week – and on all holidays. Call for a more complete safety checklist or for Mr. Yuk stickers.

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