

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Pack and Unpack Mr. Yuk**

Summertime moves make for unsafe environments for children and pets

The last bell is ringing in classrooms across the state as summer activities and big plans are set in motion. Several families will be using the summer to move to a new address. The Washington Poison Center reminds families that accidental poisonings are very common during times of change, such as a move.

Children and pets are both very curious and very quick. The Washington Poison Center reports that many parents have called the toll-free poison help number, 1-800-222-1222, for advice when their child got into a bottle of medication or a cleaning product left within reach while the family was in the throws of packing or unpacking. Other callers needed help when their child or pet was first to a stray pill when tearing down a bed.

“Place Mr. Yuk stickers on products that may cause harm if ingested, inhaled or absorbed as a reminder for adults to keep these products out of the reach of children and pets,” said Dr. William Hurley, Medical Director of the Washington Poison Center. Other ways to prevent a poisoning while moving include cleaning when children are out of the room; immediately taping and clearly marking boxes of cleaning products, medications, garage and garden chemicals and other potentially harmful products; and slowing down to double check the dose and medicine before taking or giving any medication.

“It is recommended to call the Washington Poison Center as soon as you suspect that someone has been poisoned,” said Hurley. The Poison Center’s specially-trained nurses, pharmacists and poison specialists are available 24/7 by calling 1-800-222-1222. Along with poison treatment advice, callers to the Poison Center can request Mr. Yuk stickers and Poison Center magnets be sent to their new home address.

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### **About the Washington Poison Center**

The Washington Poison Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization, prevents harm from poisonings by being the primary resource for poison treatment, education and prevention. Reachable 24/7, the national poison hotline: 1-800-222-1222 will connect you to specially-trained nurses, pharmacists and poison specialists. Poison help is always free and confidential. Services are available for people with hearing problems and for non-English speakers.