



Clinton County Health Department

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“Working Together for a Healthier Community”

health.clintoncountyny.gov



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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Media Release

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Prevent Accidental Poisoning at Home

Plattsburgh, March 2, 2026. The Clinton County Health Department (CCHD) is reminding residents to follow simple steps to prevent a poisoning from happening at home. Poisoning is the leading cause of injury-related death in the U.S. – with more people dying each year than from guns or car-related injuries. Each year, poison centers handle one case every 15 seconds.

“Some of the most common cases of accidental poisoning involve medicines, carbon monoxide (CO), household products, chemicals, art supplies, food, and outdoor hazards like animals, insects, plants, mushrooms, or berries,” explained Nichole Louis, Director of Health Care Services at CCHD. “Teach everyone in your family to never touch or put anything in their mouth unless they know what it is and that it is safe.”

Accidental poisoning doesn’t only happen in young children. In fact, less than 40% of poison center cases are related to kids aged five years and younger. For adults, the most frequent sources of poisonings are analgesics (acetaminophen, ibuprofen, etc.), household cleaning products, cosmetics/personal care products, antidepressants, and cardiovascular drugs. For young children, the most common sources are cosmetics/personal care products, household cleaning products, analgesics, foreign bodies, and dietary supplements.

Keep poisonous items safe and reduce the chance of accidental poisoning in your home by:

- Keeping all medicines in the original containers, in locked cabinets out of reach of children.
- Having and maintaining working CO detectors in your home.
- Keeping household cleaners, chemicals and other potentially poisonous substances in their original containers, in locked cabinets, up high and out-of-reach of children.
- Keeping art supplies/products in their original containers and using them as directed.
- Never using commercial cleaning products on food or food packaging.
- Checking the label on insect repellents and only use as directed.
- Teaching everyone in your family to avoid potentially poisonous mushrooms and plants.

“One of the best things you can do today is to save the toll-free Poison Help Line phone number in your phone,” urged Ms. Louis. “If you suspect someone has been poisoned, call 1-800-222-1222 to be connected with a local poison center.”

To learn more about poison risks in the home, or the Upstate New York Poison Center, visit <https://www.upstate.edu/poison/>.



“Persons who have any physical mobility or other needs, call the telephone number above to arrange for accommodations”

About the Clinton County Health Department:

The Health Department is an accredited full service department serving the residents of Clinton County. The Health Department’s Mission is to improve and protect the health, well-being and environment of the people of Clinton County. Visit our website at health.clintoncountyny.gov or connect with us on Facebook (@clintonhealth), X (Twitter [@ClintonCountyHD]), and Instagram (clintoncountyhealth).

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