



PREVENT
DANGEROUS MISHAPS
DURING THE BACK TO
SCHOOL

RUSH



SAFETY AT HOME AND SCHOOL

Changes in daily routines cause stress and distractions



The Morning Rush

Many households in New Jersey have a similar experience during the morning rush — at any minute, things can go wrong.

The kids can't find their shoes, the teen is still in bed, and one parent gives the child a dose of medicine followed by another person accidentally doing the same.

What should a parent/caregiver do when a double dose of medicine is given?

Call the NJ Poison Control Center to determine if any further action is needed.



1-800-222-1222





"September is not only a busy time for families and school employees, it's also a busy time for us at the poison center"

"Potentially dangerous products are commonly found where we live, work, and play. Situations can become dangerous quickly and without warning"

"When you combine distraction with easy access and unsafe storage of potentially harmful dangerous products, mishaps are likely to happen"

"Every day, people of all ages are exposed to potentially dangerous items ranging from medicines and chemicals to adult recreational products and substances of abuse"

"The poison center is not only a trusted medical resource for parents and caregivers, but also school administrators, teachers, and nurses"

"With the poison center's help, most people don't have to go to the emergency room or seek other medical services"

Diane Calello
Executive and Medical Director
[New Jersey Poison Control Center](#)
[Rutgers New Jersey Medical School](#)



Most think of the classroom as a place with no/few potentially dangerous substances, however many of the substances we're taught to look out for at home can also be found in schools and classrooms.

Products and substances can be dangerous if used in the wrong way, in the wrong amount, or by the wrong person — including medicines, cleaners, disinfectants, school and craft supplies, hand sanitizers, vitamins and supplements, food/lunches, coin/disc batteries, alcohol, and marijuana edibles.



The NJ Poison Control Center's daily caseload involves both accidental and intentional exposure to products and substances found in all environments – including home, work, school, outdoors, friends, and family.

Calling the poison control center first for medical help can make a difference between a mild health effect and a more serious one, which may result in a trip to the hospital.

1-800-222-1222



Follow these safety tips to prevent children from coming in contact with potential poisons at home and school.



MEDICINE

Keep track of medicines in the home to prevent accidental exposure, misuse, or abuse.

Medicines should be locked up after every use to ensure they are not accidentally or intentionally ingested or stolen.



EVERYDAY PRODUCTS AND SUBSTANCES

All products, including adult recreational substances (alcohol, cannabis/marijuana edibles, vapes), household cleaners/chemicals, and medicines should be kept in their original containers.

Keep all products in secure/locked areas. Read warnings and follow the directions on labels.

Be careful when using multiple cleaning products because the combination of different chemicals may cause toxic fumes.



1-800-222-1222



New
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HAND SANITIZERS

Hand sanitizers can be dangerous if accidentally or intentionally ingested. Young children should have limited, monitored access to hand sanitizer and it **should not** be kept in their backpacks, lunch bags, or luggage.



FOOD SAFETY



Before preparing lunch, remember to wash hands and surfaces, and pack food in appropriate containers. Hot food should be kept hot by using thermoses and other insulated containers. Cold food should be kept cold by using ice packs or cooling bags.

SUPPLIES

All supplies, whether provided by the school or brought in by students and parents, should be labeled non-toxic and kept in their original containers.



1-800-222-1222



HAND WASHING



Frequent handwashing, especially before eating as well as before and after close interaction with others, is the best way to remove germs.

While hand sanitizers help stop the spread of germs, washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is most effective.

OUTDOOR POISONS

Watch children outdoors. Many potential poisons hide in plain sight, including poison ivy, toxic wild mushrooms, pest control products and maintenance chemicals.



WAIT THERE'S MORE!



Teachers and school staff can use this [checklist](#) to help prevent accidental poisonings in their classrooms and school. Additional [resources](#).



1-800-222-1222



New Jersey
Poison
Center



Get Free Medical Help 1-800-222-1222

Medical specialists are available to provide information, answer questions, and provide emergency support 24 hours a day

Anyone can call for medical help – children, teens, and adults

[NJPoisonCenter.org](https://www.njpoisoncenter.org)

NJ Poison Control Center is a medical resource for both the public and healthcare providers.

If you think someone came in contact with something dangerous, contact the NJ Poison Control Center immediately.

Call the NJ Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 or [Chat Here](#)

If someone is not breathing, hard to wake up, or having a seizure, call 9-1-1