



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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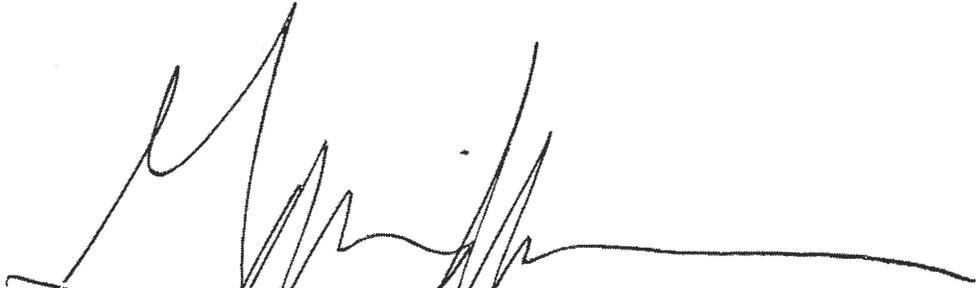
Poison Prevention Week

Poisonings are a significant health problem in California, resulting in 226,000 calls to the California Poison Control System each year. While poisoning exposures can happen to anyone anywhere, about 80 percent of all calls are made from the home and nearly half of these calls involve children under the age of five. More than 61,000 emergency room and physician office visits are averted each year in California because of the immediate service available from the California Poison Control System.

The majority of poisonings can be avoided by taking preventive steps to poison-proof the home. The most common examples of poison in and around the home include cleaning products, medicines, cosmetic and personal care products, carbon monoxide, pesticides, and poisonous plants.

During Poison Prevention Week, I encourage all Californians to learn about how to protect your family, friends, and community from poisoning exposures. Free educational materials can be ordered online at www.calpoison.org. Call the California Poison Control System at 1-800-222-1222 for fast, free, and expert help, 24-hours a day, 365 days a year. Callers receive information and treatment advice from pharmacists, physicians, nurses, and poison information providers.

Sincerely,



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of the State of California