



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 21 – 27, 2021

Poison Prevention Week

The California Poison Control System receives more than 330,000 calls each year, about 80 percent of which are made from the home with nearly half of the calls involving children under the age of six who were exposed to common household items like medicines, cleaning solvents, cosmetics and personal care products.

This year, it is all the more critical that we recognize Poison Prevention Week and instill proactive measures to ensure the safety of all Californians. During the COVID-19 pandemic, sheltering-in-place and increased use of disinfectants have created a greater risk of poison exposure, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reporting a 20 percent increase in poisonings during the first two months of the pandemic alone.

This week, I encourage all Californians to ask, "how safe is my home?" Both awareness of potentially harmful substances and diligence in safeguarding your family from exposure are essential. Best practices include storing cosmetics and personal care products out of sight and reach of children, locking away cleaning products when not in use, and keeping medications containers closed and out of reach from children.

I urge all Californians to learn about simple precautions that can be taken to avoid exposure to potentially harmful substances at www.calpoison.org. Keep the number to the California Poison Help Line, 1-800-222-1222 saved in your cell phone and written on or near all home phones. The line is staffed with health professionals and poison information providers 24 hours a day, with interpreters available at all times, to provide expert information and treatment advice. Together, we can take action to ensure the home is a safe space.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Newsom".

Gavin Newsom