




## PPPS: Poison Principles for Primary Students

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**Alabama Poison Information Center (APIC)**

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## Our Mission

The Alabama Poison Information Center will provide the highest quality response, assessment, management, and follow up information for the care of poisoned patients in an environment demonstrating excellence in research, education, and service while advocating for the prevention of poison-related morbidity and mortality.

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

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## Objectives

- Understand information and components of history that are pertinent and of value when reporting exposures to the Alabama Poison Information Center
- Identify the most common exposures in elementary-aged students
- Review triage tips when determining need for healthcare facility versus poison center follow-up
- Discuss why follow-up recommendations are provided and may extend beyond school hours

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**SCHOOL NURSES**  
YOUR POISON CENTER IS  
AVAILABLE 24/7 AT  
**1-800-222-1222**

**POISON Help**  
1-800-222-1222

APIC is happy to talk to you anytime!

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Who answers 1-800-222-1222?

- A) EMS/Paramedics
- B) Volunteers
- C) Registered Nurses, Pharmacists, Physicians
- D) Secretary or clerk

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- C) Only Registered Nurses, Pharmacists, and Physicians are allowed to answer the phones. All are experts with toxicology training.
- APIC is HIPAA compliant through the CDC.

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IF SOMEONE	DO	CALL
Has collapsed, had a seizure, has trouble breathing, or can't be awakened.		<b>911</b>
Swallowed the wrong medicine or too much medicine.	Bring the container with you to the phone if possible.	<b>1-800-222-1222</b>
Breathed in (inhaled) a poison.	Get to fresh air right away.	
Poison in the eyes.	Rinse eyes with running water for 15-20 minutes.	
Poison on the skin.	Take off any clothing touched by the poison. Rinse skin with running water for 15-20 minutes.	
Swallowed something that is not food.	Drink a small amount of water.	

**Practical Tips for exposures above**  
**Do not induce vomiting!**

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## History

APIC documents what the school nurse reports in an EHR on the initial call, and all follow up calls including:

- Student's name, age (DOB), weight, PMH, home medications, allergies
- Time since exposure, substance of exposure, description of the exposure, symptoms, amount and route of exposure
- Multiple students exposed? APIC documents each case individually

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When calling APIC the caller name, school, telephone number, and zip code will be needed by the specialist.

**Student Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Medications: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical History: \_\_\_\_\_

Exposure: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Where: \_\_\_\_\_

What: \_\_\_\_\_

Symptoms: \_\_\_\_\_

When calling APIC the caller name, school, telephone number, and zip code will be needed by the specialist.

**Student Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Medications: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical History: \_\_\_\_\_




Exposure: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Where: \_\_\_\_\_

What: \_\_\_\_\_

Symptoms: \_\_\_\_\_

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ALABAMA  
POISON  
INFORMATION  
CENTER  
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"A student dared my daughter to eat berries off a bush at recess. The school nurse called Poison Help. I learned their experts are there for parents but also healthcare providers!"

— Poison  
Help  
Caller

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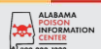

## America's Poison Centers National Poison Data System (NPDS)



Treatment • Education • Prevention

Is the only near real-time poisoning surveillance database in the U.S. with data uploaded every 4.88 minutes and contains 81 million case records from 53 poison centers.

Generates system alerts on adverse drug events and other drug or commercial products of public health interest like contaminated food or product recalls.

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## Common Exposures in Elementary Aged Students

- Solids (medication errors)
- Liquids
- Sprays
- Bites/stings



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## Foreign bodies Solids

button batteries, magnets, coins, plants, berries, mushrooms, water absorbing beads, crayons, marker tips, pencil erasers, desiccants, and silica gel

### Medications

The wrong child given the wrong medication (use school photo for substitute nurses)



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## Plants, berries, mushrooms

- Please take several pictures of the entire plant/tree plus the part ingested (berry, leaf, etc) to text to APIC for identification.



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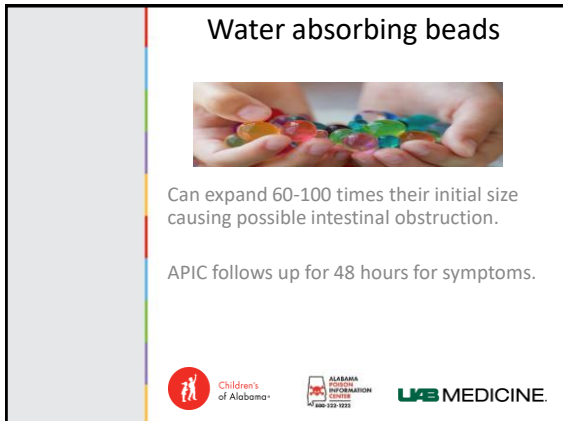
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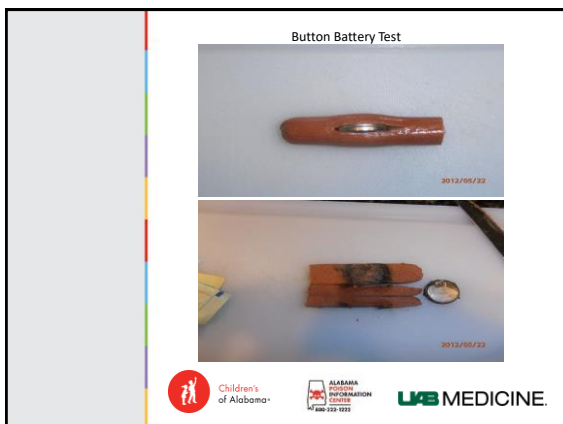
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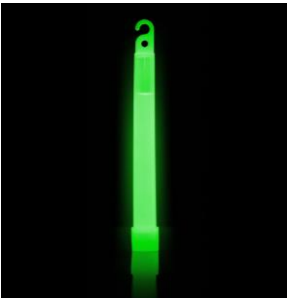
### Liquids

Hand sanitizer ingestion? APIC will calculate blood alcohol level based on % of alcohol in product, child's weight and amount ingested. Alcohol containing product can cause hypoglycemia in children.

Epinephrine auto-injector exposure? Call APIC for guidance!

Janitorial supplies such as cleaners and disinfectants, call APIC!

Glow Stick exposures when broken open and ingested or ocular exposures, call APIC!



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### Sprays

Sprays are often accidentally sprayed on another student by mistake, aimed incorrectly and sprayed in the eyes or mouth.

Keep sprays out of reach of children!



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## Bites/stings

Snakebites: Alabama has six venomous snakes. All snakebites are referred to ED. APIC follows until clinical outcome managing in hospital care.

Scorpions: usually not a problem in Alabama.

Bees, wasps: can have allergic reactions.

Caterpillars: can leave hairs embedded.

Spider bites: black widow and brown recluse can be problematic



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## Snakebite First Aid



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## Triage Tips

APIC has Medical Toxicologists on staff that are Emergency Medicine Physicians at UAB and Children's.

APIC has triage guidelines available to determine range of toxicities requiring referral to emergency departments versus follow up at home or school.

Each call is handled based on established guidelines, student's symptoms and medical history.



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- Keep products in original labeled containers!

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## Follow Up Recommendations

Poison Center data is based on follow ups to a known outcome unless a product is deemed non-toxic.

The data has been useful in product removal from the market or to change laws. Alabama became the second state to ban the sale of tianeptine pills based on APIC data.

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Bulk material order website

**[www.childrensal.org/apic](http://www.childrensal.org/apic)**

Magnets in English and Spanish, posters, etc are available free of charge.

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