**Contact:** Kristie Edelen, Pharm.D., DABAT

Managing Director, Oklahoma Poison Center

University of Oklahoma Health Sciences College of Pharmacy

Phone: (405) 271-5062

Email: kristie-edelen@ouhsc.edu

Website: oklahomapoison.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Oct. 30, 2024

**Halloween Safety Alert: Protecting Your Family From Poison Dangers**

OKLAHOMA CITY – As Halloween approaches, the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy’s Oklahoma Poison Center wants to remind families of the potential hazards that can lurk behind the festive fun. While celebrating, it's important to prioritize safety to ensure a fright-free holiday. Here are key poison dangers to watch out for this Halloween:

1. **Cosmetic Caution:** Many revelers enjoy dressing up, but it’s vital to prioritize skin safety. Always test new cosmetics on a small area of skin before full application. Discard any face paints or makeup that have an unusual odor or discoloration, as these could indicate bacterial contamination. Only use products labeled as non-toxic to protect your skin.
2. **Dry Ice Dangers:** Dry ice can create spooky effects, but it must be handled with care. Never store dry ice in the freezer and always use it in well-ventilated areas. Remember to wear gloves when handling dry ice; both ingestion and skin exposure can lead to serious injuries.
3. **Glow Stick Safety:** Glow sticks add a fun glow to Halloween festivities, but they should not be chewed or microwaved. Although the liquid inside is generally minimally toxic, it can cause irritation and burning to the skin or eyes. If any glow stick liquid comes into contact with skin or is swallowed, wash it off immediately and call the Oklahoma Poison Center.
4. **Choking Hazards for Little Ghouls:** Choking hazards are a significant concern, particularly for toddlers. Parents should keep small children away from hard candies, nuts, gum and marshmallows. Additionally, non-edible treats such as tiny toys and bouncy balls can pose choking risks.
5. **Button Battery Awareness:** Button batteries are often found in Halloween decorations and novelty items. Ensure these batteries are securely contained and out of reach of young children. If ingested, it is critical to call the Oklahoma Poison Center or go to the emergency room immediately.

**We're Here to Help:** The Oklahoma Poison Center is available 24/7 to provide information and treatment advice. If you suspect someone has been exposed to a harmful substance or if you have any questions about potential hazards, please don’t hesitate to call. This Halloween, let’s keep the fun alive and the dangers at bay. Stay safe and enjoy a spooktacular holiday!

Call the Poison Helpline at 1-800-222-1222 with questions on the safe use of Halloween products or what to do following eye exposure or accidental ingestion. Specialists can give detailed instructions on steps to take or symptoms to watch for following a Halloween mishap. For more information on poison prevention or to access our resources, please visit oklahomapoison.org.

###

**Our Commitment**

The Oklahoma Poison Center remains dedicated to providing expert guidance and support to families and communities. For immediate assistance or if you have concerns about potential poisoning, please contact our Poison Helpline at (800) 222-1222. Together, we can take proactive steps to foster a healthier community. Pharmacists and registered nurses at the Oklahoma Poison Center are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Please do not email the poison center or members of the poison center staff, as poisoning emergencies are not handled through email.

**About Oklahoma Poison Center**

Oklahoma Poison Center is dedicated to providing expert advice and support in cases of poisoning and exposure to harmful substances. Our mission is to prevent poisoning and reduce their impact through education, prevention, and providing emergency treatment recommendations. The Oklahoma Poison Center is a program of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences College of Pharmacy.

**The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences**

The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences is one of the nation’s few academic health centers with seven health professions colleges — Allied Health, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Graduate College. OU Health Sciences serves approximately 4,000 students in more than 70 undergraduate and graduate degree programs on campuses in Oklahoma City and Tulsa and is the academic and research partner of OU Health, the state’s only comprehensive academic health care system. OU Health Sciences is ranked 129 out of over 2,849 institutions in funding received from the National Institutes of Health, according to the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research. For more information, visit ouhsc.edu.