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**Back-to-School Season: A Reminder to Keep Children Safe from Poisoning Risks**

**OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. –** As students head back to school and routine changes begin, the Oklahoma Poison Center at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences wants to remind parents, teachers and caregivers about the increased risks of accidental poisoning among children. With the return of school activities and social interactions, families should be aware of several potential hazards

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**Changing Routines Bring New Risks**

The transition back to school often involves significant changes in daily routines. Children are re-adjusting to new schedules, environments and social dynamics. This period of adjustment can lead to an increased risk of accidental exposure to harmful substances, particularly as children may be more likely to experiment with or misuse medications and chemicals.

**Common Risks to Watch For**

1. **Medication Misuse:** With the new school year, children might be exposed to over-the-counter or prescription medications that don’t belong to them. Sharing or experimenting with these substances can be extremely dangerous and lead to serious health issues.
2. **Increased Access to Chemicals:** The return to school means children might encounter cleaning supplies, art materials, or other chemicals in school settings or at home that can be harmful if ingested, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin.
3. **Unfamiliar Medications:** Students might come across medications brought to school for emergencies, such as epinephrine or inhalers, which they may not be familiar with and could misuse.

**What to Do in Case of Exposure**

If you suspect that a child has been exposed to a harmful substance or has ingested a medication not prescribed to them, it is crucial to act quickly. Contact the Oklahoma Poison Center immediately at (800) 222-1222. Our trained pharmacists and nurses are available 24/7 to provide expert guidance and support.

**Preventative Measures**

* Store all medications and chemicals out of reach of children and in their original containers.
* Educate children about the dangers of experimenting with or sharing medications.
* Keep emergency numbers, including the poison center’s phone number (800) 222-1222, readily available.

The Oklahoma Poison Center is committed to protecting the health and safety of our community. By staying informed and vigilant, we can help prevent accidental poisonings and ensure a safe and successful school year for all children.

For more information on poison prevention or to access our resources, please visit oklahomapoison.org.

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**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 poisonings and reduce their impact through education, prevention, and providing emergency treatment recommendations. The Oklahoma Poison Center is a program of the University of Oklahoma 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 all health professions colleges — Allied Health, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, Graduate Studies and School of Community Medicine. 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 healthcare 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.