

APRIL 2026

THE POISON PREVENTION SCRIPT

Hello, Spring!

April in the desert looks like sunny 80 degree days and wildflower blooms. It is also a time folks are getting outside to enjoy the last bit of cool weather before the summer heat. This time of year we see an increase in rattlesnake bites at our center. Taking precautions greatly reduces the possibility of snake bite.

- Keep hands and feet out of tight spaces
- Avoid handling snakes
- Take action to keep rattlesnakes away from your home
 - Keep lawn well-maintained
 - Remove rock, log, debris piles
 - Remove sources of water
 - Control rodent populations

In general, rattlesnakes are not aggressive. They want to avoid interactions with humans and do not set out with the intention of biting humans but will do so if provoked or if they sense they are in danger.

Don't be an April fool

Poison look-alikes are household products that closely resemble safe foods or beverages due to similar packaging, color, or shape. These similarities often lead to accidental ingestions, particularly among children and older adults. Always keep items in their original packing and store products up, locked, and away to avoid confusion.

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Andrews, PharmD, CSPI

ARIZONA
Poison and Drug
Information Center



 1-800-222-1222

Cannabis 101: Responsible Cannabis Use

Responsible cannabis use is about making informed choices that prioritize personal health and safety. Responsible use may also include recognizing when cannabis use becomes problematic. Cannabis use disorder is characterized by the inability to stop using cannabis despite negative social, physical, or health consequences. If you suspect you or a loved one is overconsuming, contact a healthcare professional or a local poison control center.

What is Cannabis?

Cannabis (marijuana, weed, or pot) comes from the cannabis plant. It includes dried flowers, leaves, stems, and seeds.

The cannabis plant contains more than 100 compounds or cannabinoids. CBD and THC are two of the most well-known compounds found in cannabis plants:

- THC is the part of cannabis that makes a person feel “high.” THC can also be addictive.
- CBD does not make a person feel “high” and is not addictive.

How is Cannabis Used?

Cannabis can be smoked, vaped, dabbed (inhaling vaporized cannabis concentrate), or taken as edibles (food and drink products).

Vaping and dabbing have higher amounts of THC. Some methods, like smoking or vaping, can cause effects within minutes, while other methods, like edibles, may take up to an hour or more.

Cannabis Safety:

- Cannabis products should be stored out of reach of pets, children, and anyone in the home who is not using them. Keeping these items up, locked, and away prevents unintentional poisoning.
- Always keep cannabis products in their original packaging
- If you believe someone has ingested cannabis accidentally reach out to our experts at 1-800-222-1222

For more information:



For more information
about Arizona Cannabis
Education visit
AzCANN's website
[HERE.](#)



National Public Health Week

National Public Health Week was April 6th - 12th!

Each year during the first full week of April the American Public Health Association invites communities to celebrate National Public Health Week. This is an opportunity to highlight the role public health has in the improvement of our daily lives and the role that public health professionals play in keeping our communities safe and healthy.

Did you know our educators Heather and Taylor both hold a masters degree in public health?



In the Community: Cochise County Justice and Care Collective

This event allows individuals with eligible non-felony warrants to have their outstanding warrants quashed on-site and receive a new court date, helping participants move forward without fear of arrest.

In addition to legal assistance, attendees will have access to a wide range of voluntary services designed to support stability, health, and recovery.

AZPDIC will be at this event to share poison prevention information with community members.

COCHISE COUNTY

JUSTICE AND CARE COLLECTIVE

Need a fresh start?

Join us for a **FREE** community event offering help with non-felony warrants and access to basic medical services in Douglas. No judgment - just support, care, and a path forward.

- Quash Your Non-Felony Warrant
- Get Help With Expungement

Available Resources:

- ✓ Visit With a Medical Professional
- ✓ Peer Support Services
- ✓ Receive Free Narcan
- ✓ STI Testing/HIV Testing
- ✓ Routine Medical Screenings
- ✓ Court Resources

Event Details:

May 13th 2026

1:00pm - 04:00pm

Cochise County Government Center
1012 N. G Ave, Douglas, AZ 85607

Need a ride? Call 520-346-1366

Staff Spotlight: Matt Andrews, PharmD, CSPI



Matt is a Certified Specialist in Poison Information (CSPI). He completed his pharmacy prerequisites at the University of Arizona in 2009, his Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) in 2013, and his PGY1 pharmacy residency program at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center in 2014. This summer marks his fifteenth year with the center, working as an intern during pharmacy school and starting his twelfth year as a specialist.

Matt primarily works overnights at the center providing clinical advice to callers at home and professionals in the healthcare system managing exposures to medications, hazardous materials, and envenomations by local critters. He also helps educate and train the center's interns and the students and residents who rotate with our center.

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