



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

STATEWIDE POISON PREVENTION WEEK

2018

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, medications are the leading cause of child poisoning; more than 2.4 million people each year swallow or have contact with a poisonous substance, and more than half of these are children under 6; and

WHEREAS, 9 out of 10 poisonings occur at home; in 2013, more than 59,000 children were seen in emergency rooms for medicine poisoning; and

WHEREAS, poisoning deaths among 15 to 19-year-olds have nearly doubled in the last decade, and the misuse of prescription drugs is an increasing cause of poisoning death in teens; and

WHEREAS, from 1999 to 2015, unintentional poisoning deaths increased by more than 391 percent in North Carolina; in 2016, opioid analgesics, also known as prescription pain-killers, were involved in more drug deaths than cocaine and heroin combined; and

WHEREAS, almost every minute of every day, a poison control center receives a call about a potential medicine poisoning for a child age five and under; and

WHEREAS, participating in events like Operation Medicine Drop Week, March 18 – 24, can ensure the safe disposal of opioids and other prescription and non-prescription drugs, and help eliminate the risk of these drugs getting into the hands of our children and teens; and

WHEREAS, other tips to prevent poisoning include: being prepared for any emergency by saving the toll-free phone number for the Poison Helpline (1-800-222-1222); practicing safe storage habits by keeping medicines and hazardous substances in their child resistant containers out of sight and reach; and reading and following labels and directions for medicine use and dosage; and

WHEREAS, the state of North Carolina encourages communities throughout our state to take steps to protect our families and children against unintentional poisoning, and promote awareness of poison prevention and safety;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 18 – 24, 2018, as “**STATEWIDE POISON PREVENTION WEEK**” in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.





Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this fifteenth day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.