



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

STATEWIDE POISON PREVENTION WEEK

2020

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, from 2009 to 2018, unintentional poisoning deaths increased by more than 110 percent in North Carolina; in 2018, the majority of unintentional overdose deaths involved a prescription or illicit opioid; and

WHEREAS, unintentional poisoning death rates in 2018 are highest among American Indians (34 per 100,000) and have nearly tripled for this group since 2009 (12.8 per 100,000); and

WHEREAS, unintentional poisoning death rates have decreased among white, Hispanic, and Asian populations but increased among American Indians and African Americans; 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, 40 percent of poison exposures reported to North Carolina Poison Control in 2016 – 2017 concerned adults; and

WHEREAS, participating in events like Operation Medicine Drop 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 North Carolina Poison Control (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 15 – 21, 2020, 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 fourth day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fourth.