



Dear Sixth Grade Teacher,

Greetings from your regional poison center! The week of March 18-24, 2007 has been designated by Congress as “National Poison Prevention Week.”

The Blue Ridge Poison Center is hosting a poison prevention poster contest for all 6th graders in [our 62-county region](#). Rules are included in this mailing. All regional winners will be automatically entered in the national poison prevention poster contest. The national grand prize winner will have their poster printed and distributed all over the country!

Note: studying poison prevention meets the criteria for sixth grade health education **VA Standards of Learning (SOL)** below:

[6.4] The student will analyze the consequences of personal choices on health and well-being. Key concepts & skills include:

- d) identification of risk behaviors (list includes playing with toxic chemicals)
- e) strategies for preventing and responding to injuries (list includes poisoning)

I urge you to talk to your students about poison prevention. For inspiration,

- I’ve included a “Poison Fact Sheet for Middle School Students”
- Ideas for lesson plans and activities may be found on our website: www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/brpc or at www.poisonprevention.org.
- To request FREE stickers or magnets with the Blue Ridge Poison Center’s toll-free number for your students, contact me at 1-434-982-4386 or klw2s@virginia.edu. Every household should place this number near the phone, in case of emergency.

Please encourage your students to enter the poster contest. It provides a great vehicle for teaching poison prevention to students, and promoting poison prevention in our community.

At your service,

Kristin L. Wenger, Educator
Blue Ridge Poison Center

FACT: In 2006, Poisoning was the second leading cause of injury-related hospitalization in VA.

FACT: In 2006, Poisoning was the third leading cause of death due to unintentional injury in VA.

FACT: In 2006, The Blue Ridge Poison Center received 3,397 calls about poison exposures to children ages 6-19. 257 of these children required hospitalization.

FACT: Some of the leading causes of poisonings include over-the-counter and prescription medications, pesticides, cleaning products, and automotive products.