



## When a lollipop is more than just sweet: What parents need to know about “Pot Edibles”

Dear Families,

We have seen an increase in the number of students ingesting treats laced with THC, the drug found in marijuana. Just last week, several local middle school students were caught eating lollipops infused with marijuana, after one student experienced a strong adverse reaction to the drug.



This trend is not unique to our area. Across the country, there has been an increase in the number of kids both

accidentally and intentionally consuming “Pot edibles,” with lollipops, chocolate bars and brownies being the most common type.

What makes this especially dangerous is that the level of THC in edibles tends to be highly concentrated, leading to an increase in calls to Poison Control and Emergency Room visits.

With the holidays upon us, and an increase in our exposure to treats, it is important for kids to use caution before consuming goodies from unknown sources.

### What can you do to protect your child?

**Talk to your child.** With young children, talk to them about *only* eating treats from known sources. Explain that sometimes there are ingredients in baked goods or candy that could make them sick.

If you have an older child, discuss the dangers of consuming THC infused edibles. Make sure they realize

how much more concentrated the THC levels can be, which greatly increases the health risks.

**Limit exposure and access.** Parents need to make sure their children do not have access to any marijuana infused edibles. Children typically love candy and baked goods and are unaware that they may be dangerous for them to consume.

**Talk about the health risks of eating THC.** We have seen an increase in kids both accidentally and intentionally eating THC infused foods. Marijuana edibles are dangerous in the hands of kids. Make sure your son or daughter understands the health risks and importance of avoiding them.

### Warning signs that your child may have consumed THC edibles:

- Excessive sleepiness
- Dizziness
- Trouble walking
- Panic attacks
- Rapid heart rate
- Trouble breathing

If you suspect your child has ingested THC Edibles, seek medical attention immediately.

**Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222**



Stay up-to-date on tobacco and marijuana trends and ways to protect your child.

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