

WHY IT MATTERS

- Safe storage can help protect everyone in the home and supports responsible medical cannabis use.
- Most ingestion cases occur when products are left out, in purses, or stored with food.
- Locked, separate storage can reduce accidental exposure by more than 70%.

SAFE STORAGE BASICS

-  **Lock it up:** Use a locked bag or safe.
-  **Keep it high:** Store out of reach and sight of children.
-  **Original packaging:** Keep products in labeled, child-resistant containers.
-  **Separate storage:** Never store with other medications, food, or drinks.
-  **After use:** Return products to locked storage immediately.



TEACH & TALK

- Explain to older children that medical cannabis is for specific people only and can be harmful to children and those who don't need it.
- Remind visitors to store their own products safely when in your home.

OUR COMMITMENT

The Kentucky Office of Medical Cannabis is committed to safe, responsible access for patients, and protecting Kentucky's children through education, prevention, and partnership.

IF A CHILD IS EXPOSED

- If your child is unresponsive or having trouble breathing, **call 911 immediately.**
- For all other exposures, or if you are unsure, **call Poison Control right away:**
 - 1-800-222-1222
- Don't wait to see if symptoms appear.

IF A PET IS EXPOSED

-  Call **ASPCA Animal Poison Control** (1-888-426-4435) or contact your veterinarian.

RESOURCES

Visit the Kentucky Office of Medical Cannabis website for more information about the Medical Cannabis Program at:
<https://kymedcan.ky.gov/>



TEAM
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OFFICE OF
MEDICAL CANNABIS

Quick guide to safe storage
and preventing accidental
exposure at home



***Safe Access. Safe Storage.
Safe Kentucky.***

REGULATORY SAFEGUARDS

Responsible Packaging and Labeling Standards Include:

- Packaging must be child-resistant, requires a two-step process to initially open, and be resealable, if applicable.
- Packaging cannot resemble commercial food or drink brands or include cartoons or imagery appealing to minors.
- Packaging must state: "For medicinal use by cardholders only. KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN."



Clear THC Product Markings

- All medical cannabis packages must display the standardized THC symbol.
- Edible products must be stamped with the standardized THC symbol to remain identifiable if removed from packaging.



CRITICAL INFORMATION ABOUT EDIBLES

- Effects may take 30 minutes to 4 hours to appear.
- Effects can be more intense and longer-lasting than inhaled cannabis.
- Children are most likely to accidentally consume edible products like gummies, chocolates, candies, and baked goods.
- Children may eat large quantities because they do not realize these products contain cannabis.
- Even small amounts can be very harmful to children and may require emergency medical care.
- Effects usually last between 4-8 hours.

WHY CHILDREN ARE MORE VULNERABLE

- Smaller body size means even small amounts can have strong effects.
- Developing brains are more sensitive to THC.
- Younger children may experience more severe reactions.
- Young children may not recognize or communicate what they consumed.
- Some children will require emergency care - it can make them sedated (and sometimes unresponsive) and they could have trouble breathing.

WARNING SIGNS OF ACCIDENTAL INGESTION

- Unusual sleepiness
- Trouble walking or coordination issues
- Confusion or unusual behavior
- Nausea or vomiting
- Slurred speech
- Lethargy/unresponsiveness
- Slowed breathing

If a child ingests cannabis or THC products, call for help right away.

POISON CONTROL



1-800-222-1222

Trouble breathing or unresponsive?
Call **911** immediately.

SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Thank you for taking steps to store medical cannabis safely.

Using tools like lock boxes and secure storage can help protect children, pets, and others in your home.

Together, we can support safe, responsible use across Kentucky.