WHAT SHOULD I KNOW TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE . . .

IF I’M A QUALIFYING PATIENT USING THERAPEUTIC CANNABIS?

• Do not smoke in your home or around children
  • Secondhand smoke of any kind is harmful
  • There are other ways to use therapeutic cannabis. Talk to your doctor or the staff at the dispensary about other forms of therapeutic cannabis
  • Do not drive a vehicle, motorcycle, ATV, snowmobile or boat while under the influence of therapeutic cannabis. This is illegal
  • Tell children and teens not to ride in a car with someone who is under the influence of therapeutic cannabis
  • Educate children on the importance of not taking other people’s medication

IF I NEED TO STORE THERAPEUTIC CANNABIS IN MY HOME?

• Store all therapeutic cannabis products in:
  • The original child-resistant packaging
  • A secure and locked container
  • An “out-of-sight” and “out-of-reach” location
  • Remember, where and how it should be stored will change as children grow older
  • Edible therapeutic cannabis products, such as baked goods, can be mistaken for “regular” food
    • Securely store therapeutic cannabis food items away from other foods
    • Talk to young children about not eating or drinking anything without permission
    • This is especially important when children are at other people’s homes

IF THERAPEUTIC CANNABIS IS ACCIDENTALLY CONSUMED?

• Therapeutic cannabis products can make children very sick

• Call the Poison Control Hotline phone number (1-800-222-1222) as soon as possible.
  This is a free and fast service to get help! If a child is unconscious, or having difficulty breathing, walking, or sitting up: immediately call 911 or go to an emergency room.

KEEP CHILDREN SAFE.

Set a good example and create a safe environment.

Actions speak louder than words. Do not smoke or vape therapeutic cannabis around children, and keep all therapeutic cannabis and cannabis products locked up.

Needs tips for talking to your child?
Visit: drugfreenh.org

Concerned about someone you love?
Call NH’s 24/7 Addiction Crisis Line:
1-844-711-HELP (4357)

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START THE CONVERSATION.
• Talk about the risks of using marijuana
• Visit www.drugfreenh.org for help on age-appropriate talking tips

TALK OFTEN, LISTEN CAREFULLY AND STAY POSITIVE.
• Adjust the conversation to the age of the child
• To have the message stick, when a teachable moment arises, take advantage of the situation and talk about it

EXPLAIN HOW MARIJUANA DAMAGES A GROWING AND HEALTHY BRAIN.
• Using marijuana makes it hard to learn and remember information
• Learning and memory problems increase as more marijuana is used
• This increases the risk for poor grades
• Marijuana addiction happens more often if it is used at a younger age

STAY FOCUSED ON GOALS AND THE FUTURE.
• Discuss current and future goals
• Help children stay focused on goals by:
  • Being a good role model
  • Guiding decision making
  • Teaching accountability
  • Praising them for doing well in school
  • Rewarding them for staying out of trouble

TALK ABOUT CONSEQUENCES
• Be clear on family, community, school and after-school rules
• Breaking school rules may result in suspension, being expelled or arrest
• Educate children on NH marijuana laws
• Breaking the law may lead to criminal charges as a minor
• Criminal charges can lead to fines, loss of a driver’s license and a misdemeanor or felony charge
• Some employers will not hire people with a felony charge
• Marijuana is illegal under federal law
• Financial aid for college may be withheld for students with drug charges

RESOURCES:
For specific tips on age-appropriate ways to talk to youth, suggested talking points and how to spot high-risk behaviors, visit www.drugfreenh.org
To access New Hampshire’s 24/7 Addiction Crisis Line, call 1-844-711-HELP (4357)
To search for substance use disorder treatment providers in your area, visit www.nhtreatment.org