WHAT SHOULD I KNOW TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE . . .

IF I’M A QUALIFYING PATIENT USING THERAPEUTIC CANNABIS?

• Do not smoke or vape 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.
PREVENTING YOUTH USE

Help Prevent Youth from Using Recreational Marijuana . . . Get the Facts and Know the Risks

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 arrested
• 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 criminal record
• 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

For help with drug or alcohol issues, visit www.theDoorway.NH.gov or dial 2-1-1.