

## Questions

Instructions: select one answer for each of the following four questions.

- 1) You bought a tube of pain relieving cream for the sunburn you got yesterday. You find your toddler sucking on the end of it. What should you do?
- A. Nothing. Even if she swallowed some, it's just a little bit.
  - B. Check the tube to see if you need to buy some more.
  - C. Even a little bit of these creams can be dangerous. Call the poison center right away: 1-800-222-1222!



- 2) You are at a neighborhood barbecue. Your youngster gets into some charcoal lighter fluid and you think he might have swallowed some. Is this dangerous?
- A. No, it's just a clear liquid.
  - B. It depends on how old your child is.
  - C. Yes. It can easily get into the lungs and cause pneumonia. This could be fatal.
- 3) Last-minute company is coming. You're short on mushrooms for dinner. Should you pick those white ones that are growing in your lawn?
- A. Only if they match pictures of safe mushrooms in an encyclopedia.
  - B. Only if your neighbor says they're OK.
  - C. Don't do it! Eating some types of wild mushrooms can cause severe liver damage, or even be fatal.



1-800-222-1222 travels with you.

4) It's the Fourth of July and you are celebrating with friends and family at an outdoor party. What should you do to avoid food poisoning?

- A. Keep cold foods cold, in a cooler and in the shade.
- B. Keep hot foods hot.
- C. Keep hot and cold foods at room temperature for NO MORE THAN two hours. (No more than one hour if the air or room temperature is above 90 degrees.)
- D. Keep raw meat and poultry, and their juices, separate from other raw foods and from cooked foods.
- E. Wash your hands before handling food.
- F. All of the above.



## Answers

1) **C.** Pain-relieving skin creams often contain benzocaine, dibucaine or lidocaine. A child who swallows just a small amount can have seizures. Some children have even died. If you use these medicines, be sure that you replace them in their child-resistant containers right away. Then lock them out of sight and reach of small children. If you find a child with a tube of pain-relieving skin cream, call the poison center at 1-800-222-1222 right away.



2) **C.** Drinking charcoal lighter fluid is dangerous. The same is true of other petroleum-based liquids (hydrocarbons) like gasoline, kerosene, paint thinner, baby oil, lamp oil, furniture polish, etc. When you swallow these and other hydrocarbons, they can easily go down the wrong way and get into your lungs. Only a small amount can cause pneumonia within a few hours. The liquid also spreads out over the inner surface of your lungs, preventing oxygen from entering your blood stream. Charcoal lighter fluid and other hydrocarbons **MUST** be stored in their original child-resistant containers, locked out of sight and reach of children. When you use these products, do not put them down where children can reach them; immediately lock them away when you're done. If someone has swallowed lighter fluid, or other possible poisons, call the poison center at 1-800-222-1222 right away.



3) **C.** Unless you are an expert, you cannot tell poisonous mushrooms from safe mushrooms. Mushrooms called “death caps” (*Amanita phalloides*, *Amanita verna*) grow easily in yards and parks. Eating even a few bites can cause fatal liver damage. There are other types of poisonous mushrooms, too, which can fool you. Get your mushrooms from the market! Call the poison center at 1-800-222-1222 right away if someone eats a wild mushroom. The experts at your poison center will tell you what to do, what to watch for, and how to safely save the mushroom in case it needs to be identified later on.

4) **F.** All of the above steps will help ensure that you have a safe outing. These common sense steps can help prevent food poisoning from ruining summer fun.



**Thanks for taking our summer safety quiz.**

The Connecticut Poison Control Center is a free and confidential service of the University of Connecticut Health Center. Poison information specialists are available 24-hours-a-day, 7 days a week. Call 1-800-222-1222 if you have a poisoning exposure or need information about poisons. Hearing impaired? Call TDD toll-free at 1-866-218-5372. Call 860-679-3531 to order educational materials.

Check out our website for more information about poisons and an on-line list of resources <http://poisoncontrol.uhc.edu>

# Test Your Summer Poison Safety IQ



Do you know what poison dangers to look out for during the summer months? Test your summer poison safety IQ with the following quiz developed by the American Association of Poison Control Centers.



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**Connecticut Poison Control Center**