



Marijuana Edibles - Not a Treat for Kids

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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This Halloween, Day One and San Fernando Valley Partnership are teaming up with public health experts across LA County to host regional press events to warn parents about the dangers of marijuana edibles that closely resemble popular treats, and how to prevent accidental ingestion of marijuana food products among children and teens.

What: Regional Press Conference to raise awareness about marijuana edibles in LA County

When: Friday October 27th, 2017 (10:30am - 12pm). Speakers and media please arrive by 10am.

Where: Pasadena City Hall - Front Steps (100 Garfield Ave. Pasadena CA 91101)

Who: All are welcome!

Poison control centers across the country, and especially in states like Washington and Colorado where commercial marijuana has been legal for a few years, have seen an increase in emergency room visits related to ingestion of marijuana food products, or “edibles”. With the recent passage of Prop 64, and the expansion of commercial sale of marijuana for recreational use, local communities have started to see an increase in popularity of edible products that are appealing to children. Research shows that minors are higher risk for long-term health effects like decreased cognitive function and substance use disorder during this crucial stage of brain development. A major concern among parents and public health experts is the ease of access and packing of edibles available across LA County today that mimic existing snacks that are popular among children and youth such as, Pot-Tarts, Takis, Wheatos, and Fruit Poofs to name a few. These enticing goodies are on the rise – and so is the risk of accidental exposure among children.

Adults are generally instructed to ingest a “dose” of the edible which correlates to one bite of a cookie, or half of a gummy bear, but an unsuspecting child is not likely to stop at just one bite, or one gummy bear. If a child were to eat the entire bag of gummy bears or a whole brownie, it is highly likely that they could end up in the emergency room for marijuana intoxication. Symptoms of intoxication include: dizziness, paranoia, weakness, slurred speech, altered perception, anxiety, difficulty breathing, or even heart problems. Another major factor contributing to the safety concerns regarding edibles is the time it takes to feel the effects, which can take between 30 min to up to 2 hours for marijuana food products.

Public Health experts from the region will be in attendance to speak about what we can do to prevent our kids from getting into these tasty-looking, but potentially toxic treats including:

- Keep marijuana food products in original packaging and store with medications and other potentially toxic substances out of reach of children and teens, preferably in a locked container.
- Do not eat marijuana edibles in front of your children, for either medical or recreational purposes. Kids will want to mimic your behavior
- Encourage friends and family who also spend time with your child to do the same.
- If your child accidentally eats a marijuana product CALL the Los Angeles County Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222, or call 911.

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