

## *Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools*

# ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

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<b>SECTION:</b>	100 – GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	<b>CODE:</b>	AP 169.13
<b>PROCEDURE:</b>	<b>POISONING</b>		

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### **BACKGROUND**

Many conditions mimic the signs and symptoms of poisoning, including seizures, alcohol intoxication, stroke and insulin reaction. Look for the signs and symptoms listed below if you suspect poisoning, but check with the Saskatchewan Poison Center at 1-866-454-1212 before giving anything to the affected person.

### **PROCEDURES**

1. Signs and symptoms of poisoning:
  - 1.1 Burns or redness around the mouth and lips, which can result from drinking certain poisons.
  - 1.2 Breath that smells like chemicals, such as gasoline or paint thinner.
  - 1.3 Burns, stains and odors on the person, on his or her clothing or on the furniture, floor, rugs or other objects in the surrounding area.
  - 1.4 Empty medication bottles or scattered pills.
  - 1.5 Vomiting, difficulty breathing, sleepiness, confusion or other unexpected signs.
2. Call 1-866-454-1212 or 911 immediately if the person is:
  - 2.1 Drowsy or unconscious
  - 2.2 Having difficulty breathing or has stopped breathing
  - 2.3 Having seizures
3. If the person seems stable and has no symptoms, but you suspect poisoning, call the Saskatchewan Poison Center at 1-866-454-1212. Provide information about the person's symptoms and, if possible, information about what he or she ingested, how much and when.
4. **What to do while waiting for help:**
  - 4.1 If the person has been exposed to poisonous fumes, such as carbon monoxide, get him or her into fresh air immediately.

- 4.2 If the suspected poison is a household cleaner or other chemical, read the label and follow instructions for accidental poisoning. If the product is toxic, the label will likely advise you to call a Poison Center. Also call the Saskatchewan Poison Center at 1-866-454-1212 if you can't identify the poison, if it's medication or if there are no instructions.
- 4.3 Follow treatment directions that are given by the Poison Control Center.
- 4.4 If the poison spilled on the person's clothing, skin or eyes, remove the clothing. Flush the skin or eyes with cool or lukewarm water, such as by using a shower for 20 minutes or until help arrives.
- 4.5 Take the poison container (or any pill bottles) with you to the hospital.
- 4.6 Complete the school incident report.

## 5. **What NOT to do**

- 5.1 Don't administer ipecac syrup or do anything to induce vomiting. In 2003, the American Academy of Pediatrics advised discarding ipecac in the home, saying there's no good evidence of effectiveness and that it can do more harm than good.

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