



1911 Tooley Road
Howell, Michigan 48855

Livingston County Emergency Management

Telephone 517.546.6220
Fax 517.546.6788

Emergency Management Coordinator: Therese Cremonte

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Residents Reminded to Clean Homes Safely; Store Products Out of the Reach of Children

HOWELL, Michigan. - (April 23, 2020) In recent months, calls to U.S. poison centers about cleaner and disinfectant exposures increased by approximately 20 percent. While cleaning is important in preventing the spread of COVID-19, please remember to clean and disinfect your home safely. Follow these tips for safe household cleaning:

- Store chemicals, including hand sanitizer, out of the reach of children.
- Read and follow label directions.
- Only use water at room temperature for dilution (unless stated otherwise on the label).
- Don't mix chemicals.
- Wear protective gear.
- Use cleaners in well-ventilated areas.

If you suspect a chemical exposure has occurred, don't guess what you should do. Get help from Poison Control online at <https://triage.webpoisoncontrol.org/#/exclusions> or call them at 1-800-222-1222. Both are free and confidential.

For more information on household tips during the COVID-19 pandemic, check out the Livingston County Health Department's guide on household readiness: <https://bit.ly/34XuQAI> and the Center for Disease Control's (CDC's) steps for cleaning and disinfecting your home every day and when someone is sick: <https://bit.ly/2KnG4EU>. More information on the increase in cleaning and disinfectant chemical exposures can be found in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR): <https://bit.ly/3arUaQ5>.

CONTACT:

Natasha Radke, Public Information Officer/ Health Promotion Coordinator
Livingston County Health Department
(517) 546-9850
nradke@livgov.com
www.lchd.org
<https://www.facebook.com/myLCHD>

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