

# Protect Kids & Pets from Cannabis

## Safely store and keep track of cannabis

It is important to make sure children, teens, and pets cannot access your adult use cannabis and products with THC.

*You can keep youth and pets safe by:*

- ▶ **Locking it up.** Always store cannabis and products with THC in a lockbox or locked cabinet.
- ▶ **Keeping track of what you have.** If you know exactly how much you have of each product, you will know if any is missing. Baked goods and other edibles may be appealing to youth and pets. Safely store and, when possible, keep purchased products in original packaging.



**Safe storage and monitoring will help prevent accidental ingestion.**

## Local businesses that carry lock boxes and safe storage containers:

- ▶ **253 Farmacy**, 253 Millers Falls Rd, Turners Falls: They carry Stashlogix accessories that are made specifically for the discreet and secure storage of cannabis products
- ▶ **Aubuchon Hardware**, 200 Avenue A, Turners Falls: They carry small safes that can be used for a variety of uses, including medications and edibles.
- ▶ **CVS**, 137 Federal Street, Greenfield: They carry safe storage containers/lock boxes that can be used for edibles and medications.
- ▶ **Home Depot**, 264 Mohawk Trail, Greenfield: They carry lock boxes/safes in a variety of sizes.

Other businesses may also carry similar products, but not all businesses do, so it can be helpful to call ahead.

**! If you are concerned that a child or pet has ingested a product with THC, call Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222 or visit [www.poison.org](http://www.poison.org)**

## The Developing Teenage Brain

A young person's brain is different than an adult brain. Child and teen brains are primed for learning and also more susceptible to addiction. Research shows that the younger a person is when they start using marijuana or another substance, the more likely they are to become dependent or addicted.<sup>1</sup>

### **“Talk. They Hear You.”**

Caregivers play a crucial role in preventing, delaying, and reducing the use of alcohol and drugs.<sup>2,3</sup> Research shows that when parents set clear expectations, youth are less likely to use.<sup>3</sup>

**For tips and advice** on what you can say, try the *Marijuana Talk Kit* or *Talk. They Hear You* app. Do a Google search for “Marijuana Talk Kit” or “Talk. They Hear You.”

References: 1) NIDA. (2016). Understanding Drug Use and Addiction: [drugabuse.gov](http://drugabuse.gov) | 2) NIDA. (2016). Principles of Substance Abuse Prevention for Early Childhood | 3) Partnership for Drug-Free Kids: [drugfree.org/article/how-to-talk-about-marijuana](http://drugfree.org/article/how-to-talk-about-marijuana)

## Additional Resources

- ▶ **Gill-Montague Community School Partnership:** *page on teen brain development* ([gmpartnership.org/resources/teen-brains-are-amazing](http://gmpartnership.org/resources/teen-brains-are-amazing))
- ▶ **Communities That Care Coalition:** *information about protecting youth health and preventing youth substance use* ([communitiesthatcarecoalition.org](http://communitiesthatcarecoalition.org))
- ▶ **Mass.gov:** *info on what is legal and other educational information* ([mass.gov/learn-about-marijuana](http://mass.gov/learn-about-marijuana))
- ▶ **Partnership for Drug Free Kids** has *information about how to talk with youth about marijuana* ([drugfree.org/article/how-to-talk-about-marijuana](http://drugfree.org/article/how-to-talk-about-marijuana)) *and how to help youth if you are concerned that they are using substances* ([drugfree.org/landing-page/get-help-support/is-there-a-problem](http://drugfree.org/landing-page/get-help-support/is-there-a-problem))
- ▶ **Baystate Franklin Medical Center:** 164 High St, Greenfield. (413) 773-0211

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