

WHAT SHOULD I DO POISONED BY

See your doctor or nurse or go to the emergency room if you have any signs of poisoning. Look at the list below. Don't wait. Go within 24 hours after contact with a pesticide.

HOW CAN I TELL IF I HAVE BEEN POISONED BY PESTICIDES?

It is hard to tell. Pesticide poisoning can look like other illnesses. It can look like a flu or food poisoning. Doctors often miss it. Signs of pesticide poisoning include:

SIGNS OF PESTICIDE POISONING

DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

- nausea
- vomiting
- diarrhea

ACHES AND PAINS

- muscle and joint pain
- headache

NERVOUS SYSTEM

- numbness
- change in vision

- very tired
- being dizzy
- mental confusion

OTHER PROBLEMS

- trouble breathing
- skin rashes
- ear, nose & throat irritation

"Medical problems caused by pesticide exposure are often misdiagnosed by health care providers."

— Lynn Goldman, M.D., M.P.H.,
pediatrician, professor at Johns Hopkins
University's School of Public Health,
and former Assistant Administrator of
the Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and
Toxic Substances, U.S. EPA.

AT THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE OR THE EMERGENCY ROOM:

- ✓ Tell the nurse or doctor that you were exposed to a pesticide
- ✓ Give the name of the product you were exposed to

IF I THINK I'VE BEEN PESTICIDES?

- ✓ Your nurse or doctor may send a urine sample to the Maryland Environmental Chemistry lab. This will help them find out if you were poisoned so that you can be properly treated for a pesticide injury
- ✓ Your health care provider must report all illnesses related to pesticides to the county health department

REPORTING ILLNESS OR INJURY CAUSED BY PESTICIDES

Since 2004, healthcare providers in Maryland must report diagnosed or suspected cases of pesticide-related illness.

It is the law!

The reports must be sent to the local county health department.

Please also report illness or injury that may be caused by pesticides

to the Maryland Pesticide Network (MPN). This should be done by you and your doctor or nurse. The web site for your doctor or nurse is: www.mdpestnet.org/pesticide_injury_report.htm. The website for your personal report is: www.mdpestnet.org/PIR_form.pdf.

MPN will share the information it collects with doctors and nurses so that they can better understand the health effects of pesticides on their patients. It helps to get information from both you and your doctor or nurse about each health problem that could be linked to pesticides.

If you are not a Maryland resident, check with your local department of health about reporting illnesses caused by pesticides.

To learn more about pesticide poisoning, your doctor or nurse can go to www.mdpestnet.org. Click on the "kit" for health care providers.