



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY Public Health Division

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PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

To:	Santa Cruz County Healthcare Providers
From:	Lisa B. Hernandez, MD, MPH, County Public Health Officer
Subject:	Severe Hepatotoxicity Following Consumption of Wild Mushrooms
Date:	December 5, 2025

Situational Update:

Santa Cruz County Public Health has been notified of a recent increase in cases from Monterey County, whose residents have become severely ill following the consumption of foraged wild mushrooms. Some of these cases have sought care in Santa Cruz County facilities. The ill individuals experienced gastrointestinal symptoms, and some required facility transfer to a higher level of care due to severe hepatotoxicity.

The term wild mushroom refers to mushrooms that are not cultivated by commercial growers. Wild mushrooms include many varieties of fungi that tend to grow in shady, moist, and humid environments. Some of the more common poisonous wild mushrooms include the varieties *Amanita ocreata* known as Death Angel, *Amanita phalloides* known as Death Cap, and *Amanita muscaria* known as Fly Amanita. These poisonous wild mushrooms grow in certain parts of California, including Santa Cruz County, year-round but are most commonly found during fall, late winter, and spring.

ACTIONS REQUESTED OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- **Be aware of the symptoms of mushroom toxicity, which manifest 1 to 6 hours following consumption:**
 - Increased tearing and salivation
 - Constriction of the pupils
 - Sweating
 - Vomiting, abdominal cramping, and/or diarrhea
 - Dizziness
 - Hypoglycemia
 - Muscle twitching
 - Confusion, coma, and/or seizures

- **Ask patients presenting with symptoms consistent with mushroom toxicity about mushroom consumption.**
 - Collect and record information about when and where the mushrooms were purchased or sourced, what they looked like, and if they have any remaining mushrooms in their possession.
- **Consult with California Poison Control** at 1-800-222-1222 for assistance managing patients with suspected mushroom toxicity.
- **Report mushroom toxicity cases** to the County of Santa Cruz Communicable Disease Unit by calling (831) 454-4114 during normal business hours and (831) 471-1170 outside of normal business hours.
 - Quick reporting will facilitate early interventions, when appropriate, and prevent additional illnesses.

For more information about mushroom toxicity, please consult UpToDate and other reputable sources on managing patients with mushroom toxicity. For more information about reporting suspected cases, please contact the County of Santa Cruz Communicable Disease Unit at (831) 454-4114.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Poison Control, Wild Mushroom Warning](#)

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.