

Public Service Announcement (Script): Health Canada Decision on the Labelling of Cough and Cold Products for Children

Runny noses, nasty aches and pains. It's cold season again.

If you have a sick child under the age of 6, here's some important information you should know about over-the-counter cough and cold medicines for children.

After carefully assessing the use of these medicines, Health Canada has decided they should not be labelled for use in children under the age of 6.

Because the relabelling of these medicines will not be completed until fall 2009, you may find products still on store shelves and in your homes with directions for use in children under 6, as well as older children and adults. Despite what the current labelling says, parents and caregivers should consult a pharmacist or other health care practitioner for this cough and cold season when buying or using these medicines. They are only to be used in children 6 years and older.

When it comes to colds, let nature take its course. Kids should have rest, plenty of fluids, and adequate humidity in their rooms. The common cold should get better on its own in six to ten days. If symptoms worsen, see your health care practitioner.

For more information and a complete list of the active ingredients affected by Health Canada's decision, call 1-866-558-2946, or go to www.healthcanada.gc.ca/coughandcold