Gentian Violet (Crystal Violet)

Why am I being warned about potential exposure to gentian violet?

- Gentian violet is on the Proposition 65 list because it can cause cancer. Exposure to gentian violet may increase the risk of cancer.
- Proposition 65 requires businesses to determine if they must provide a warning about significant exposure to listed chemicals.

What is gentian violet?

Gentian violet, also known as crystal violet, is a chemical known for its purple color.

How does exposure to gentian violet occur?

- Gentian violet is often used as an antiseptic, and as a coloring agent. You can be exposed to this chemical by using it:
  - As an over-the-counter treatment for cuts and bacterial or fungal infections, including thrush, a common yeast infection.
  - In homemade dye mixtures, such as hair dyes.
  - In some science kits that contain gentian violet solutions to stain bacteria.
- During pregnancy, gentian violet can pass from mother to baby.

How can I reduce my exposure to gentian violet?

✅ Consider alternatives to products that contain gentian violet if you are treating:
  - A cut or infection.
  - Thrush, especially in a mother or her breastfeeding baby.

⚠️ Avoid using gentian violet in homemade hair dye.

For more information:

General Fact Sheets and Resources
- Government of Canada, Health Canada
  - Health Canada Warns Canadians of Potential Cancer Risk Associated with Gentian Violet

Scientific Information about Gentian Violet
- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
  - Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
    - Evidence on the Carcinogenicity of Gentian Violet
      https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/crnr/gentianvioletid011719.pdf
Proposition 65

- California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
  Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)
  - Proposition 65: Background
    https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/faq
  - Proposition 65: The List of Chemicals
    https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/chemicals
  - Proposition 65: Fact Sheets
    https://www.p65warnings.ca.gov/fact-sheets