

Name _____

The Deadly Puzzle: The Chicago Tylenol Murders

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The discovery of the deaths linked to Tylenol in Chicago caused panic and fear. People across the nation were worried that their over-the-counter medications could also be contaminated. This fear extended beyond the city because the tampered bottles could have been distributed to various locations, making it a nationwide concern.
2. Johnson & Johnson's swift response to the Chicago Tylenol Murders included initiating a nationwide recall of Tylenol products and cooperating with law enforcement. This proactive approach helped protect public health and safety, but it also had significant financial implications for the company. Johnson & Johnson's reputation for responsibility and customer care was bolstered.
3. Tracing the source of the tainted Tylenol was challenging because the bottles had been tampered with in various stores, making it difficult to pinpoint the exact point of contamination. Additionally, the tamper-evident packaging and security measures we have today were not in place at that time, allowing the tampering to go undetected.
4. The Chicago Tylenol Murders had a profound and lasting impact on product safety. Companies began implementing tamper-evident packaging and taking additional precautions to ensure the safety of their products. These changes included better control over product manufacturing, packaging, and distribution, ultimately protecting consumers from similar incidents.

(Note: The Chicago Tylenol Murders remain unsolved, and no suspects have been charged or convicted in connection with the case.)

