



The New Jersey Poison Information & Education System  
Serving New Jersey Since 1983

Designated regional poison center  
for New Jersey by New Jersey  
Department of Health and Senior  
Services and the American  
Association of Poison Control  
Centers

**PRESS RELEASE**

Date: September 2007  
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## **CAUTION:** Eating Wild Mushrooms Leads to Hospitalization

**Newark, New Jersey -** Mushrooms are popular in today's cuisine. Some "wild" mushrooms however, should not be eaten because they can cause sickness or even lead to death. Unless one is an expert, it is important to **NEVER** eat wild mushrooms.

Two (2) NJ residents experienced firsthand the dangers when they ate wild mushrooms growing in their backyard thinking they were the same kind of mushroom they had eaten before. This "mistaken identity" resulted in their hospitalization in order to prevent liver damage. The patients did well and were eventually discharged, but will never pick wild mushrooms again.

The New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES) warns that poisonous mushrooms may look similar to non-poisonous ones, therefore, there is no easy way to tell the difference between them. Toxic and non-toxic mushrooms can grow side by side. We urge you to teach your children never to touch or taste outdoor mushrooms.

### **Remember Help Is Just A Phone Call Away! 1-800-222-1222**

Eating ANY plant or mushroom collected outdoors should be considered dangerous. Call the New Jersey Poison Control Center (**1-800-222-1222**) immediately if you suspect someone has eaten one. Even after a serious poisoning symptoms may not appear until many hours later. Do NOT wait until symptoms appear. We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

located at University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey