



The New Jersey Poison Information & Education System

Serving New Jersey Since 1983

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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

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New Jersey Celebrates National Poison Prevention Week

Do you know what to do if you think you, a loved one, or a pet has been poisoned from medicines, chemicals, cleaning products, or food? Do you know who to call for information about medicines, their uses, side effects, or interactions? Call the New Jersey Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222. A trained health professional is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week to help people of all ages in all types of situations. Call for emergencies and information. Remember help is just a phone call away!

National Poison Prevention Week, March 15-21, 2009

Each year, during the third week of March, the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES) observes National Poison Prevention Week (March 15-21, 2009). There are two themes this year - "*Children Act Fast, So Do Poisons* and *Poisonings Span a Lifetime*." The first theme reminds parents to always be watchful when household chemicals or drugs are being used. Many incidents happen when adults are using a product but are distracted (for example, by the telephone or the doorbell) for a few moments. Adults must make sure household chemicals and medicines are stored away from children at all times. The other theme is meant to increase awareness that poisonings can happen to people of any age including children, adults, and older adults.

In observance of this year's National Poison Prevention Week, NJPIES reminds you to poison proof your home using the following safety tips:

- (1) All household chemicals and medicines (prescription, over-the-counter products, and herbal/dietary supplements) **MUST** be locked up, out of reach, and out of sight of children and pets at all times
- (2) Be sure to use child-resistant packaging
- (3) Call the Poison Help Hotline at 1-800-222-1222 for emergency treatment information or to answer your questions
- (4) Visit our website today at www.njpies.org to discover free downloads, request a speaker to conduct a poison prevention program for your organization, or order free educational materials in English/Spanish.

Volunteer Opportunities

Answer the call...Come volunteer with NJPIES! Your community service will help our efforts to provide poison prevention services throughout the state. To find out more about our volunteer opportunities, call the Poison Help Hotline at 1-800-222-1222.

How to Participate in National Poison Prevention Week

Join NJPIES in celebrating National Poison Prevention Week this year! Share valuable poison prevention information with your family, friends, school, organizations, or community. Order free educational materials, conduct a poison prevention program, or invite an NJPIES' educator to speak to your school or community! For more ideas and information, visit www.njpies.org.

located at University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey