



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



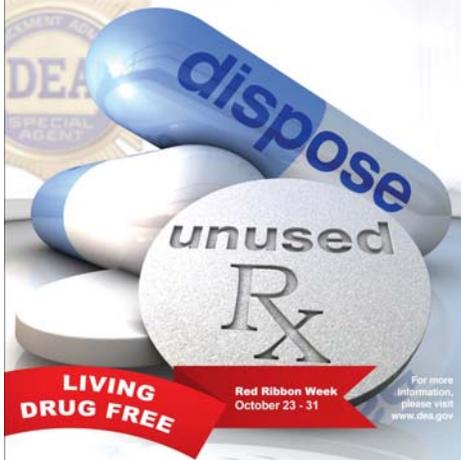
NEWS RELEASE

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Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal
Saturday, October 29th



NJ Poison Control Center Promotes the DEA's National Prescription Take-Back Event on Saturday, October 29, 2011

Steven Marcus, Executive and Medical Director,
Dr. Bruce Ruck, Director, Drug Information and Professional Education
New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES)

Available for Interviews

NEWARK, N.J. — October 25, 2011 — The New Jersey Poison Experts urge everyone to take advantage of the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) National Prescription Take-Back Day. On Saturday, October 29, 2011, the DEA will host its 3rd Take-Back event. This one-day event will give the public another opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous, expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your medications for disposal to one of the turn-in sites. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. Turn-in site locations can be found at www.dea.gov. All sites will operate from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The NJ Poison Control Center wants to keep NJ residents safe. This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medications in home medicine cabinets are highly susceptible to misuse and/or abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses die to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, the public is now being advised that their usual methods of disposing of unused medications—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—may pose potential safety and health hazards.

The NJ Poison Experts encourage all NJ residents to take part in this one-day event to get rid of any unused or expired medications. With the public's support of the 3rd Take-Back event, we may help save a life. If you have any questions regarding the National Prescription Drug Take-Back event or if you suspect a poisoning and are seeking treatment advice, **CALL THE POISON CONTROL CENTER'S HOTLINE IMMEDIATELY at 1-800-222-1222**. NJPIES' leaders urge medical professionals, parents, educators, caregivers and the general public to all the toll-free poison center hot line. The hotline is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! All services are free and confidential. The NJ Poison Experts are available to assist both for emergency poisonings, as well as, for non-emergency questions regarding medications, household products, plants, environmental contaminants, or other poisons. We recommend putting the number in all family cell phones as well as programming it as a speed dial number on landlines, and prominently posting the number near home and phones.

***Remember, Help Is Just a Phone Call Away!
Real People. Real Answers.***

Help us spread the word! Forward this release to all of your contacts, including local radio, TV, magazines, and newspapers. Don't forget about Facebook and Twitter. We appreciate all of your help! If you haven't

Got Drugs?

- Unused or expired prescription medications are a public safety issue, leading to accidental poisoning, overdose, and abuse.
- The non-medical use of prescription drugs ranks second only to marijuana as the most common form of drug abuse in America.
- Unused prescription drugs thrown in the trash can be retrieved and abused or illegally sold. Unused drugs that are flushed contaminate the water supply. Proper disposal of unused drugs saves lives and protects the environment.
- The majority of teenagers abusing prescription drugs get them from family and friends—and the home medicine cabinet.
- DEA educates communities about drug abuse and prevention by participating in National Red Ribbon Week October 23-31 every year.
- Red Ribbon Week is the nation's oldest and largest drug prevention awareness program celebrated by millions of people around the country.
- Join the annual Red Ribbon celebration:
 - **Increase Your Knowledge** – learn more about the destructive effects of abusing drugs.
 - **Take a Stand** – wear a red ribbon to show your intolerance for drug abuse.
 - **Spread the Word** – encourage everyone you know to adopt healthy, drug-free lifestyles.
- For more information about prescription drug abuse and Red Ribbon Week, go to:
 - www.dea.gov
 - www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com
 - www.justthinktwice.com

done so already, check us out on Facebook (www.facebook.com/njpies). Follow us for poison prevention tips, safety updates and news.

About NJPIES

As New Jersey's only poison control center, the New Jersey Poison Information & Education System provides information on poison prevention and treatments. Chartered in 1983, NJPIES provides free consultation through telephone hot line services and the Web. Medical professionals such as physicians, registered nurses and pharmacists offer confidential advice regarding poison emergencies and provide information on poison prevention, drugs, food poisoning, animal bites and more. These specialists are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

NJPIES coordinates state poison education and research and is designated as the regional poison center by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services and the American Association of Poison Control Centers. It tracks incidences of adverse reactions to food, drugs and vaccines in order to monitor potential public health issues and provide data to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A division of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health of the New Jersey Medical School of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, it has a state-of-the-art center located on the school's Newark campus.

New Jersey residents seeking immediate information about treating poison emergencies, and those with any drug information questions, should call the toll-free hot line, **800-222-1222**, any time. The hearing impaired may call **973-926-8008**. For more information, visit www.njpies.org or call **973-972-9280**.

About UMDNJ

The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey is the nation's largest freestanding public health sciences university, with more than 5,500 students attending. The state's three medical schools, a dental school, a graduate school of biomedical sciences, a school of health-related professions, a school of nursing and a school of public health are housed on five campuses — Newark, New Brunswick/Piscataway, Scotch Plains, Camden and Stratford. Annually, there are more than 2 million patient visits at UMDNJ facilities and faculty practices at the campuses. UMDNJ operates University Hospital, a level I trauma center in Newark, and University Behavioral HealthCare, a mental health and addiction services network.

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