

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

MEDIA ALERT

Media Contacts:

800-222-1222 (800-962-1253 outside NJ)

Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet

September 27, 2014

- Help Prevent Unintentional Poisonings and Rx Drug Abuse -

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Available for Interviews

(Newark, NJ) – September 15, 2014 — The US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is coordinating a free nationwide drug "take-back" day on **September 27th from 10AM to 2PM**. This one-day event will provide residents with no cost, anonymous, collection of unused, unwanted and expired medicines (Rx). Bring your pills and/or patches for disposal - the DEA cannot accept liquids, needles or sharps.

New Jersey law enforcement agencies will join other states in participating in this national event. This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that are not needed and remain in homes are highly susceptible to being stolen, misused, and abused. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of unintentional poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. A recent survey of teenagers admitting to using prescription drugs for non-medical reasons showed that in over 20% of such cases, the medication was obtained without the consent of the person for whom the medication was prescribed! Many times those that abuse prescription medications obtain them from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

This is a great opportunity for those who may have missed the previous events or who have accumulated more unwanted, unused medications, since the last take back event. It will help keep dangerous, addictive medications off of the streets as well as helping to ensure environmentally sound disposal practices.

We urge everyone to use a lockable medicine cabinet in their home and keep all medications, both prescription and over the counter, locked up at all times. This will help prevent both an unintentional exposure of a young child and access by those seeking the medication for other than the intended purpose.

Make a difference in your community. The NJ Poison Experts encourage all residents to participate on Saturday, **September 27th, 2014**. All sites will operate from 10 AM to 2 PM. Contact the New Jersey Poison Experts at 800-222-1222 for a local drop-off site near you. Remember to remind the seniors in your lives to do the same.

If you have any questions regarding the DEA's Take-Back event or if you suspect a poisoning and are seeking treatment advice, call the NJ Poison Experts at 800-222-1222. If someone is unconscious, not breathing, seizing/convulsing, bleeding profusely, difficult to arouse/wake up, etc. call 911 immediately, otherwise call the poison center. Experts are always here to help 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year. Calls are free and confidential. Help is available in more than 150 languages. Program the Poison Help line (800-222-1222) into your cell phone and post it near your home and office phones too.

Help is Just a Phone Call Away!

Remember, calls are free and confidential and help is always available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year, even during bouts of Mother Nature like Hurricane Sandy. Call 800-222-1222, chat via www.njpies.org, or text in at 8002221222@njpies.org to contact a NJ Poison Expert. Help is available in more than 150 languages.

We are social. Join us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/njpies) and Twitter ([@NJPoisonCenter](https://twitter.com/NJPoisonCenter)) for breaking news, safety tips, trivia questions, etc. Share what you learn with your family (including children), friends, and coworkers.

Real People. Real Answers.

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 Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. NJPIES has a state-of-the-art center located on the school's Newark campus. NJPIES is funded, in part, by the NJ Department of Health and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

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 Rutgers

Established in 1766, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, is America's eighth oldest institution of higher learning and one of the nation's premier public research universities. Serving more than 65,000 students on campuses, centers, institutes and other locations throughout the state, Rutgers is the only public university in New Jersey that is a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities.

Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences (RBHS) is the health care education, research, and clinical division of Rutgers University, comprising nine schools and their attendant faculty practices, centers, institutes and clinics; New Jersey's leading comprehensive cancer care center; and New Jersey's largest behavioral health care network.

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