

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

## NEWS RELEASE

Media to contact:  
800-222-1222  
800-962-1253 if outside NJ

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### **Poisonings Happen Anywhere, Anytime and to Anyone** New Jersey Celebrates 56<sup>th</sup> Annual National Poison Prevention Week

**(Newark, NJ)** –This year marks the 56<sup>th</sup> observance of National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW), March 18-24<sup>th</sup>. Since 1961, individuals, organizations and institutions around the country unite during NPPW to promote poison prevention education as well as advocate for the life-saving services provided by the nation’s poison control system.

Poisoning is the leading cause of unintentional injury death in New Jersey. From youngest to oldest, everyone including their pets are at risk. “Since poisonings are preventable, it’s important to focus your attention on identifying and preventing potential hazards at home,” says Diane Calello, MD, [NJ Poison Control Center](#) Executive and Medical Director, [Rutgers NJ Medical School’s Department of Emergency Medicine](#). Overlooking such dangers can be costly to the health and well-being of loved ones.

Poisonings happen anywhere, anytime and to anyone. Residents should have peace of mind in knowing that their poison control center can help 24/7. It is actively involved in all aspects of poisoning and public health, from prevention to treatment to education. Healthcare providers in emergency departments and hospitals also rely on poison center experts to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of their patients as well.

The New Jersey Poison Center answers over 50,000 calls annually. Did you know the poison control center manages most exposures over the phone, requiring no hospital visit or medical costs? Are you prepared for a poisoning exposure/emergency? Do you have the Poison Help line saved in your mobile phone?

“Anything can be a poison if it’s used in the wrong way, in the wrong amount, or by the wrong person; the dose determines how toxic something is or isn’t in the body. It’s not just about medicines and chemicals/substances; foreign bodies such as coins, magnets, and batteries also cause serious life-threatening injuries and even death,” says Calello.

To prevent poisonings, the New Jersey Poison Control Center recommends the following:

- **Be prepared for an emergency.** Keep the national, free Poison Help line at your fingertips by saving the number in your mobile phone. 1-800-222-1222
- **Practice safe storage habits.** Always store medicines, hazardous chemicals/substances and foreign bodies where children and pets cannot reach them. Keep them locked up, out of sight, reach and in their original child-resistant containers.
- **Read and follow all labels and directions.** Review medicine and product labels before use, especially before giving medicine to children.

- **Detect invisible threats.** Have a working carbon monoxide (CO) detector in your home. Check batteries two times a year during Daylight Savings. Don't forget your smoke alarm too.

Remember to follow National Poison Prevention Week on social media by following #PoisonHelp, #PreventPoison, and #NPPW18 on Twitter, liking our [Facebook](#)/[Twitter](#) pages and by saving the Poison Help line, 1-800-222-1222, as a contact in your phone. You can also reach the New Jersey Poison Control Center by chat via [www.njpies.org](http://www.njpies.org) or text [8002221222@njpies.org](mailto:8002221222@njpies.org).

**Help is Just a Phone Call Away!**  
**Real People. Real Answers.**

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#### Available for Media Interviews

Diane P. Calello, MD, Executive and Medical Director, New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES)  
Bruce Ruck, Pharm.D., Managing Director, New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES)

#### About NJPIES

Chartered in 1983, the New Jersey Poison Information & Education System (NJPIES) is New Jersey's only poison control center. Medical professionals such as physicians, registered nurses and pharmacists offer free consultation through hotline services (telephone, text and chat) regarding poison emergencies and provide information on poison prevention, drugs, food poisoning, animal bites and more. In addition, it tracks incidences of adverse reactions to food, drugs and vaccines in order to monitor potential public health issues and provide data to the New Jersey Department of Health, U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. NJPIES' confidential services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year. When needed, NJPIES responds to other emergent health issues by expanding hotline services.

NJPIES is designated as the state's regional poison control center by the New Jersey Department of Health and the American Association of Poison Control Centers. It is a division of the Department of Emergency Medicine of Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. NJPIES has a state-of-the-art center located at Rutgers Health Sciences in Newark. NJPIES is funded, in part, by the NJ Department of Health, NJ Hospitals and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

New Jersey residents should save the Poison Help number, 1-800-222-1222, in their mobile phones and post the number somewhere visible in their home. NJPIES is also available via text [8002221222@njpies.org](mailto:8002221222@njpies.org) and chat [www.njpies.org](http://www.njpies.org).  
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#### 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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