

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

## NEWS RELEASE

Media Contacts:  
800-222-1222 (800-962-1253 outside NJ)

### Warning to Parents this Halloween Marijuana Candies Packaged to Look Like Popular Brand Candies

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*Available for Interviews*

(Newark, NJ) – October 28, 2014 — The use of marijuana candy has been increasing in New Jersey and nearby states. Marijuana candy products containing THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), the main active ingredient in the marijuana plant that causes the “high”, are being packaged to look just like popular brands of candy (chocolate, hard, or gummy candies).



As children get ready to celebrate Halloween by trick-or-treating in their communities, the NJ Poison Experts warn the public, especially parents, of the serious dangers these “look alike” candies can have on children. It is possible that children could accidentally receive marijuana candy in their Halloween treats this year. Adults must check children’s candy bags before allowing them to eat any candy from it. **Warning: Read the Labels!!!** Manufacturers of the marijuana candies alter the labels ever so slightly so it is very easy to overlook. The

THC level in these products may be as high as 90% compared to 10 to 20% found in marijuana cigarettes.

These products can be identified by the marijuana odor they emit when opened. Wear vinyl or non-latex gloves when handling possible marijuana candy and throw the gloves away after use. Thoroughly wash hands after removing gloves and before eating, drinking, or smoking to prevent potential ingestion of drug particles. Contact your local police department when you observe possible illegal drug-related activity.

It’s important to know the signs and symptoms of someone who has consumed one of these products:

- Dizziness
- Shallow low breathing
- Red eyes/dilated pupils
- Dry mouth
- Increased appetite
- Short term memory loss
- Slow reaction time
- Paranoia



- Anxiety
- Depression
- Distorted sense of time

Remember, not only can these products pose serious health risks to children, but also to pets. Be sure to dispose of these items where children and pets cannot find them. NJ Poison Experts urge the public to be vigilant not only on Halloween but also every day of the year.

Do not take chances by waiting until symptoms. If an exposure occurs, it's good to know help is just a phone call away. If someone is unconscious, not breathing, seizing/convulsing, bleeding profusely, difficult to arouse/wake up, etc. call 911 immediately, otherwise call the **NJ Poison Experts at (1-800-222-1222)**. "Don't waste valuable time looking up information on the Internet when every minute counts. Many of the calls we get are genuine emergencies," said Steven Marcus, MD, executive and medical director of the NJ Poison Center. "Having a poison expert give you exact instructions for your specific situation can help significantly during those critical first few minutes."

### 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](http://www.njpies.org), or text in at [8002221222@njpies.org](mailto: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](http://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.

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#### **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](http://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.