

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS*, Congress designated the third full week in March to be National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW) in 1961 and since then this week has helped to raise national awareness of the dangers of potentially poisonous medicines, household chemicals, and other substances; and

*WHEREAS*, poison centers across the country will focus the public's attention on identifying poisoning hazards at home as well as learning ways to prevent poisoning emergencies; and

*WHEREAS*, unintentional poisoning is the leading cause of unintentional injury death in New Jersey; and

*WHEREAS*, drug overdose deaths including prescription pain medicine and heroin remain at epidemic proportions for both New Jersey and the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the majority of drug overdose deaths (more than six out of ten) involve an opioid; and

*WHEREAS*, a poison is defined as anything that is taken in the wrong amount, in the wrong way or by the wrong person; and

*WHEREAS*, every poisoning is preventable! From the youngest to the oldest, all people and even pets are at risk; and

*WHEREAS*, although the majority of reported poison exposures involve children five (5) years old and younger; the majority of poisoning deaths occur in adults aged 20 to 59; and

*WHEREAS*, the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES), a division of the Department of Emergency Medicine of the New Jersey Medical School of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, provides expert advice, drug information, and poison prevention education to NJ residents through the 800-222-1222 Poison Help Hotline; and

*WHEREAS*, all services are free, confidential, multilingual and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year even during bouts of Mother Nature; and

*WHEREAS*, the public can contact a poison expert by calling (1-800-222-1222), chatting ([www.njpies.org](http://www.njpies.org)), or texting ([8002221222@njpies.org](mailto:8002221222@njpies.org)); and

*WHEREAS*, consumers must be aware that e-cigarette devices, hookah pipes and liquid nicotine may contain very high doses of nicotine in enticing colors, aromas, and flavors – increasing the likelihood that small children and pets will focus their attention on them. These products pose serious risk of poisoning; and

*WHEREAS*, poison experts urge residents to use our services as a resource for poison and drug information instead of consulting the internet for information that may not be accurate; and

*WHEREAS*, we encourage all residents to program the Poison Help Line 800-222-1222 into home, office, and cell phones because a rapid response can make a difference in preventing serious injury and saving lives; and

*WHEREAS*, the use of poison centers services saves residents both time and money. Most cases are managed in the convenience of the caller's home, requiring no hospital visit; and

*WHEREAS*, NJPIES is also involved with the state's efforts in homeland defense, counter-terrorism, emergency preparedness and response, bio surveillance, and surveillance for clusters of poisonings and their sources (products, food and beverages, chemicals in the workplace and at home, environmental toxins, drugs and medicine, and animal and insect bites and stings);

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kevin Duffy, Mayor of the Township of Hardwick, do hereby proclaim the week of March 19-23, 2019 as National Poison Prevention Week in New Jersey and encourage all citizens to pledge their commitment to ensuring the safety of themselves, their families, and their community.*

  
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Kevin Duffy, Mayor, Township of Hardwick