



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

# IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Designated regional poison center  
for New Jersey by New Jersey  
Department of Health and Senior  
Services and the American  
Association of Poison Control  
Centers

Please distribute to the public; your local radio, magazines and newspapers;  
websites; etc.

## PRESS RELEASE

Date: September 2008  
Contact: Alicia Gambino, MA, CHES  
973-972-9280

## Warning:

### Eating Wild Mushrooms Lands 3 NJ Residents in the Hospital

**Newark, New Jersey – Three (3)** NJ residents experienced firsthand the dangers of eating wild mushrooms growing on the lawn. These toxic mushrooms were mistaken for edible mushrooms. This “mistaken identity” resulted in their hospitalization, one (1) patient is in extremely critical condition with significant liver damage and two (2) patients are hospitalized with significant symptoms and signs.

The New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES) warns that poisonous mushrooms may look similar to non-poisonous ones, therefore, there is no easy way to tell the difference between them. Additionally, toxic and non-toxic mushrooms may grow together side by side and may be mistakenly harvested by an unwary wild mushroom forager.

We warn all citizens: unless you are a mushroom expert or are told that a mushroom is not toxic by such an expert, **DO NOT** touch, pick, taste or otherwise use any wild mushrooms.

**Remember Help Is Just A Phone Call Away! 1-800-222-1222**

Eating ANY plant or mushroom collected outdoors should be considered dangerous. Call the New Jersey Poison Control Center (**1-800-222-1222**) immediately if you suspect someone has eaten one. Even after a serious poisoning symptoms may not appear until many hours later. Do NOT wait until symptoms appear. We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

located at University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey

140 Bergen Street, PO Box 1709, Suite G1600, Newark, NJ 07101-1709

Telephone: 973-972-9280 Fax: 973-643-2679

Website: [WWW.NJPIES.ORG](http://WWW.NJPIES.ORG)