



The New Jersey Poison Information and Education System

Serving New Jersey Since 1983

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

Special Alert

Governor's Transition Team Recommends Closing NJ Poison Control Center

Imagine this, your toddler drinks drain cleaner from under the sink; your elderly parent mixes up his/her prescription medicine; you find loose pills in your teenager's pocket; you and your family become ill after eating out at a local restaurant; you accidentally mistake a common household cleaning product for juice; your pet swallows over-the-counter medicine from your purse. Now imagine frantically dialing the Poison Control Center's hotline for help and no one is there to answer your call. There could be a time in the near future where NJPIES' Poison Information Specialists, who are trained health care professionals, will not be available to help.

Calls similar to the examples above are just some of the emergencies that NJPIES handles on a daily basis. To save money, Governor Christie's transition team has recommended that the state close NJPIES, New Jersey's only poison center. NJPIES has been serving the citizens of NJ since 1983, responding to calls for help from the public and healthcare professionals. Research has shown that a call to the poison center from a hospital is associated with a decrease of 3 days of hospitalization, thus, NJPIES' consultations save tens of millions of dollars in healthcare costs each and every year.

Sincerely yours,

Steven M Marcus, MD

Steven M Marcus, MD
Executive and Medical Director, NJPIES

