

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

MEDIA ALERT

Media Contacts:

800-222-1222 (800-962-1253 outside NJ)

NJ Lead Crisis 2016

-- **NJ Poison Center to Help Residents Concerned About Lead --**

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New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES)

Available for Interviews

(Newark, NJ) – March 15, 2016 — In the past several weeks there have been several news worthy stories about lead poisoning- Flint Michigan- lead in the water, Morristown Medical Center- lead in the water, 30 Newark schools- lead in the water. Parents, teachers, pregnant women, breast feeding women, even health professionals have questions. Where can you turn for factual, reliable, and immediate information? **Your local poison center 1-800-222-1222.**

The New Jersey Poison Center has been the “go to place” for information as it pertains to all types of poisoning including lead. It is now extremely important that the word gets out that the NJ Poison Center is available 24/7/365 to take all calls concerning lead poisoning as it pertains to the Newark school situation. Questions regarding lead poisoning can be directed to Poison Help at 1-800 222 1222 where a health professional is waiting to assist you.

Call to action - Program the Poison Help Line (1-800-222-1222) into your cell phone and post it somewhere visible in your home and office. In the event of an exposure (your child, pet, or anyone), call Poison Help immediately for help. If someone is unconscious, not breathing, seizing/convulsing, bleeding profusely, difficult to arouse/wake up, etc. call 911.

Help is Just a Phone Call Away!

We are social. Join us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/njpies) and Twitter (@NJPoisonCenter) for breaking news, safety tips, trivia questions, etc. Stay tuned for more poison prevention week safety information.

Real People. Real Answers.

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 Emergency Medicine 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 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.

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