

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

## NEWS RELEASE

Media to contact:  
800-222-1222  
800-962-1253 if outside NJ

For Immediate Release  
June 29, 2018

### Are You Ready for the Heat?

– Meteorologists call for longest NJ heat wave in recent years–

**(Newark, NJ)** – Summer is in full swing and with less than a week to go before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday, the Garden State is gearing up for its first statewide heat wave. Meteorologists across the tristate area are calling for temperatures in the high 80's and 90's, along with extremely high humidity. Although high temps and high humidity levels are not uncommon in our area, experts at the New Jersey Poison Control Center suggest airing on the side of caution during the heatwave.

The potential for developing a heat-related illness increases significantly with excessive heat as well as use of certain medications. Medications such as; antidepressants, antihistamines (allergy medications), diuretics (water pills), and antipsychotics have all been known to increase the risk of heatstroke/sunstroke, a condition that occurs when a person's body temperature rises to a dangerous level.

Diane Calello, MD, [NJ Poison Control Center](#) Executive and Medical Director, [Rutgers NJ Medical School's Department of Emergency Medicine](#), reminds New Jersey residents, "Safety isn't an accident, it's a choice. Rest assured that the state's poison control center will be here to respond to your calls for help, 24 hours a day, every day of the year."

#### Tips to prevent heat illness:

- Hot cars can kill within minutes. Never leave children or pets alone inside parked cars. Leaving the windows down does not prevent temperatures inside the car from rising to deadly levels.
- Air-conditioning is the number one protective factor against heat-related illness and death.
- Drink plenty of water (fluids) throughout the day and less tea, coffee, cola and alcoholic beverages! Do not wait until you feel thirsty to drink – it may be too late!
- Reduce or schedule outdoor activity for cooler times of the day, before 10am and after 6pm.
- During outdoor activities, take frequent breaks and drink plenty of water or other fluids, even if you don't feel thirsty.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting, open-woven clothes.
- Wear a vented hat in the sun to protect yourself from the sun's rays. Don't forget sunscreen!
- If you have a chronic medical problem, call the experts at the New Jersey Poison Control Center or ask your doctor about how to deal with the heat.

Remember, the New Jersey Poison Control Center is not only a great resource in the event of an emergency, but experts are also available to answer any questions or concerns you may have, 24/7. Save the [Poison Help](#) line in your phone today so you're prepared for what may happen tomorrow, 1-800-222-1222.

**Help is Just a Phone Call Away!**

We are social. Join us on Facebook ([@NJPIES](#)) and Twitter ([@NJPoisonCenter](#)) for breaking news, safety tips, trivia questions, etc.

**Real People. Real Answers.**

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### **Available for Media Interviews**

Diane P. Calello, MD, Executive and Medical Director, New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES)  
Bruce Ruck, Pharm.D., Managing Director, New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES)

### **About NJPIES**

Chartered in 1983, the New Jersey Poison Information & Education System (NJPIES) is New Jersey's only poison control center. Medical professionals such as physicians, registered nurses and pharmacists offer free consultation through hotline services (telephone, text and chat) regarding poison emergencies and provide information on poison prevention, drugs, food poisoning, animal bites and more. In addition, it tracks incidences of adverse reactions to food, drugs and vaccines in order to monitor potential public health issues and provide data to the New Jersey Department of Health, U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. NJPIES' confidential services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year. When needed, NJPIES responds to other emergent health issues by expanding hotline services.

NJPIES is designated as the state's regional poison control center by the New Jersey Department of Health and the American Association of Poison Control Centers. It is a division of the Department of Emergency Medicine of Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. NJPIES has a state-of-the-art center located at Rutgers Health Sciences in Newark. NJPIES is funded, in part, by the NJ Department of Health, NJ Hospitals and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

New Jersey residents should save the Poison Help number, 1-800-222-1222, in their mobile phones and post the number somewhere visible in their home. NJPIES is also available via text [8002221222@njpies.org](mailto:8002221222@njpies.org) and chat [www.njpies.org](http://www.njpies.org).  
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### **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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