

## **Patricia D. Hastings**

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**From:** "Patricia D. Hastings" <hastings@aesop.rutgers.edu>  
**To:** <NJinPASNETWORK@aesop.rutgers.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2002 5:37 PM  
**Subject:** The New National Toll- Free Poison Center Hotline:1-800-222-1222

Posting to NJinPAS Network: New Jersey's poison control emergency hotline is now accessible by a new national phone number. Please note that you will still be directly connected to the local poison control center, with absolutely no change in call routing and accessibility.

### **PRESS RELEASE**

Date: January 30, 2002

Contact: Roberta Swenson, MPH. New Jersey Pesticide Information & Education System (NJPIES)  
973-972-9280

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The New National Toll- Free Poison Center Hotline:1-800-222-1222

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- One hundred percent of the U.S. population has access to the new toll-free national poison center number.
- The new poison center number is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- The national number automatically connects callers to the closest local poison center. No matter where a person calls from, he or she will be connected to the closest poison center.
- Specially trained nurses, pharmacists and doctors answer calls to 1-800-222-1222.
- In most cases, callers can take care of the poison exposure problem with phone advice only. If hands-on medical treatment is necessary the poison center will call an ambulance and give treatment advice to the emergency care providers.
- Poison experts responding to the hotline help prevent poisonings by answering a wide range of poison-related questions concerning drug interactions, household dangers, insect bites, etc. Most poisonings are preventable by taking simple precautions.
- Existing local poison center numbers will still connect callers to their local poison centers.
- The new poison center number is being promoted on the new Poison HELP logo. The logo can be found on buttons, flyers, stickers, magnets, brochures and other outreach material.