

Township of Verona

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Congress designated the third full week in March to be National Poison Prevention Week (NPPW) in 1961 and since then this week has helped to raise national awareness of the dangers of potentially dangerous medicines, household products and chemicals, environmental contaminants, and other substances; and

WHEREAS, poison control centers across the country will focus the public's attention on the free, lifesaving services provided by poison centers as well as educating the public on ways to prevent poisoning exposures; and

WHEREAS, the NJ Poison Control Center, a division of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, provides 24/7 expert medical treatment advice, drug information, and prevention education at no cost to the public through the Poison Help hotline; and

WHEREAS, the NJ Poison Control Center's specialized medical professionals (doctors, pharmacists, and nurses) provide accessible, free, and confidential poisoning/medical treatment advice and information to all; and

WHEREAS, the NJ Poison Control Center's services save healthcare dollars by eliminating thousands of unnecessary emergency department/room visits and result in shorter lengths of stay for patients hospitalized for poisoning; and

WHEREAS, the NJ Poison Control Center is instrumental in the surveillance and management of poisoning exposures across the state, including the use, misuse, and abuse of; medications, legal and illicit drugs, environmental contaminants, bioterrorism agents, and common household products and chemicals; and

WHEREAS, the NJ Poison Control Center is involved in New Jersey's efforts in homeland defense, counterterrorism, emergency preparedness and pandemic response, and bio-surveillance; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Hotline at the NJ Poison Control Center, a collaboration with the NJ Department of Health, has assisted nearly 90,000 additional callers to provide up-to-date, unbiased, accurate information as well as medical guidance and links to services; and

WHEREAS, unintentional poisoning is the leading cause of unintentional injury death in New Jersey outnumbering deaths by motor vehicles and firearms; and

WHEREAS, a poison is defined as anything that can cause harm if taken in the wrong amount, in the wrong way or by the wrong person; and

WHEREAS, although most reported poison exposures involve children five (5) years old and younger; most poisoning deaths occur in adults aged 20 to 59; and

WHEREAS, overdose deaths from prescription opioids, over-the-counter medications, and illegal drugs remain at epidemic proportions for both New Jersey and the United States; and

WHEREAS, lead exposure and carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning remain major public health concerns; and

WHEREAS, poison center experts encourage the public not to guess, wait for symptoms, or waste time looking up medical information online when potential poisoning exposures occur: call 1-800-222-1222, text 973-339-0702, or chat www.njpies.org.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jack McEvoy, Mayor of the Township of Verona hereby proclaims the week of March 21 -27, 2021 as National Poison Prevention Week in New Jersey and encourage all citizens to pledge their commitment to ensuring the safety of themselves, their families, and their community.



JACK McEVOY
Mayor