

**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 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 New Jersey Poison Control Center, a division of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Rutgers New Jersey Medical School provides 24/7 expert poisoning treatment advice, drug information, and prevention education at no cost to the public accessing center services through the Poison Help number at 1-800-222-1222, chat ([www.njpics.org](http://www.njpics.org)), or text 973-339-0712; and

**WHEREAS**, specialized medical professionals (doctors, pharmacists, and nurses) provide accessible, free, and confidential healthcare to all; and

**WHEREAS**, poison center services save healthcare dollars by eliminating thousands of unnecessary emergency department/room visits and decreasing lengths of stays for patients hospitalized for poisoning through telemedicine services/capabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the poison 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 state's poison control center is involved in New Jersey's efforts in homeland defense, counterterrorism, emergency preparedness and response, and biosurveillance; 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**, vaping and e-cigarette devices pose a serious risk of nicotine poisoning, as well as serious potentially deadly vaping associated lung illnesses, also referred to as EVALI; 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; and

**WHEREAS**, all residents should save the Poison Control Center's number, 1-800-222-1222, in their cell, home, and office phones because a fast response can make all the difference in preventing serious injury and saving lives;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Michael Putrino, Mayor, of the Borough of New Milford do hereby proclaim the week of March 15-21, 2020 as

### **NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION WEEK**

and encourage all citizens to pledge their commitment to ensure the safety of themselves, their families, and the community.

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