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TO: Idaho Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technicians, and Pharmacy Students

FROM: Les Gieselman, Pharm.D.
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SUBJECT: ***Classroom Presentations for Poison Prevention Week (March 20 – 26, 2011)***

Each year the Idaho Poison Center receives more than 16,000 calls related to human poisonings. More than half of these calls are for poisonings in children less than six years old; one and two year olds are at greatest risk. The most common poisons are medicines and household products, many of which look like candy, soft drinks or other harmless substances. Medicines that are brought into homes in the pockets and purses of visiting adults are also a significant cause of childhood poisonings.

As pharmacists (and technicians and students), we have a professional responsibility to provide our patients with the best care possible. We also have many opportunities to do good things in our communities, outside the walls of our practice sites. Would you like to do something that positively impacts the health of many of your citizens, especially the children? Then please seriously consider volunteering less than an hour of your time to deliver a ***Poison Prevention*** presentation to a third grade classroom at the school(s) of your choice. As a bonus, please note that the time you (pharmacists) spend teaching these children qualifies for non-ACPE-accredited Pharmacy Continuing Education in the State of Idaho. We will also be sending poison prevention materials to Day Care centers, Head Start programs, and WIC clinics throughout the state. They may contact you to conduct a class for the children and parents.

Thanks to generous assistance from the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, we have notified all third grade teachers in the State about ***Poison Prevention Week*** and suggested they contact a pharmacist in their community about providing a presentation to their classroom. This is a win-win situation for us—we improve the overall health of our communities' citizens and increase the public's knowledge about pharmacists and what we do. Why not take the initiative and contact a school rather than waiting for them to contact you?

Remember, ***“Children Act Fast—So Do Poisons!”***