



## **August Focuses on Medical Alert Information Livingston, NJ Health Department**

Persons with any medical problems or conditions that cannot easily be seen, recognized or communicated need the protection of Medical Alert. Heart conditions, diabetes, severe allergies, dementia, Alzheimer's, and epilepsy are all common health problems to identify if emergency medical treatment is needed or a relative, child or loved one with special needs to be identified. Whenever you cannot speak for yourself due to shock, delirium or a medical condition, the Medical Alert will speak for you. Every minute is important in an emergency situation and this medical information could save your or a loved one's life or prevent an ongoing serious health problem. A current picture at the Response Center or police department can be very helpful.

This Medical Alert emblem is recognized all over the world. On the back of the emblem is engraved the primary medical condition and the member identification number of the wearer, and the telephone number of the 24 hour Emergency Response Center. Doctors, nurses, police, medical personnel and anyone giving emergency aid can access the information.

The Livingston, NJ Health Department believes this is an excellent service to receive accelerated identification of a loved one, faster, safer treatment in emergency management and helps avoid harmful or fatal reactions.

There are various companies offering individual protective services and this information may be found from your pharmacy, physician, medical or family magazines, the "Yellow Pages" and the Internet.

Philips Lifeline has a medication Dispensing service to help people reduce the risk of medication errors. This service dispenses preloaded medications at the scheduled time. An audible reminder and flashing light remind the person its time for the medication. Just press the button and the medication is dispended in as easy to handle plastic cup. If a dose is missed, the caregiver can be alerted by phone. They also have Medical Alert services; for more information call 1-800-543-3546.

Our Health Department offers a free **File of Life** program which involves a medical information packet designed to provide medical emergency workers with the necessary medical data needed to begin immediate treatment in a home emergency. This **File of Life** contains information regarding allergies, medications the person is taking, emergency contacts and medical insurance information along with religious and living

will data. After completing the form, it should be placed in the top portion of your refrigerator in the in the red packet with the magnetic back. Make changes to the form or have new forms available for your updates. Have your physician and family member or caregiver review the information with you. These cards and red plastic pockets are free to residents of the township.