Dear Principal / Teacher In Charge

Death Cap Mushrooms

Death Cap mushrooms are one of the world’s deadliest mushrooms and can be found across the Canberra region, usually in late summer and autumn. There have been four deaths and many poisonings in the ACT in the past 15 years due to Death Cap mushrooms.

In Canberra, Death Cap mushrooms often grow near established oak trees in mild, moist weather. Death Cap mushrooms have been found growing on school grounds.

I would be grateful for your assistance in reminding your school community of the risks of Death Cap mushroom poisoning. People, especially children, should be encouraged not to touch, pick or eat any wild mushrooms. I have enclosed with this letter, information on Death Cap mushrooms for inclusion in your school newsletter and/or a letter to parents. Death Cap mushroom posters and flyers are also available to order in both English and non-English languages by contacting the Health Protection Service on 6205 1700 or via email at hps@act.gov.au.

If you believe you have spotted Death Cap mushrooms growing on your school grounds, please contact Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.

If you think anyone may have eaten a Death Cap mushroom, you must seek immediate medical attention from a hospital emergency department.

Thank you for your assistance with this important public health issue.

John Woollard
Director
Health Protection Service
13 February 2015