

CITY OF BALTIMORE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Testing Reveals Item of Children's Jewelry with Excess Lead

BALTIMORE, MD (December 10, 2008) — The Baltimore City Health Department has issued a violation notice to a business prohibiting the sale of four children's jewelry products that were identified with a lead level in metal components above 600 parts per million (ppm). The Department issued a violation notice to the same business in September 2008. The Consumer Product Safety Commission has been alerted to the most recent findings.

The Health Commissioner is deeming all products of the same style and manufacturer of these items to be a nuisance to public health. These products may not be offered for retail sale in Baltimore City.

Under a regulation adopted on December 7, 2006, children's jewelry containing more than 1,200 ppm were not to be offered for retail sale in Baltimore City. As of September 1, 2007, children's jewelry with metal components containing in excess of 600 ppm of total lead are banned.

The items identified were sold at Party City, 6311 York Road, and are listed below:

1)



Necklace with flip flop charm –
the necklace contained 8,810 ppm
and the charm contained 30,600
ppm.

2)



What's Your Mood necklace with angel charm – necklace clasp contained 315,000 ppm

3)



What's Your Mood necklace with flower charm – necklace clasp contained 154,000 ppm

4)



My Little Sweetheart bracelet – heart charm contained 1,580 ppm and the bracelet contained 3,270 ppm

Lead is a neurotoxin that can cause severe illness and even death at high doses and cognitive impairment and other neurological problems at lower doses. The standard for lead in paint is 600 parts per million of lead.

On August 14, 2008, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) published new, more stringent standards on permissible lead content in children's products. The law stipulates that by February 10, 2009, children's products cannot have a total lead content above 600 ppm. On August 14, 2009, the limits drops to 300 ppm and then drops three years later to 100 ppm on August 14, 2011.

The Health Department tested 8 children's jewelry products in December 2008. The above products were the only products found to be in excess of 600 parts per million. A full report of the testing and results will be released later today.

Baltimore's regulation on lead in children's jewelry can be found online at http://www.baltimorehealth.org/press/2006_12_07_lead_regs.pdf

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