

CITY OF BALTIMORE

MAYOR STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Olivia D. Farrow, Esq., R.S.
Interim Commissioner
1001 E. Fayette Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Brian Schleter

PHONE: 443-984-2623

Mediahealth@baltimorecity.gov

Testing Reveals Items of Children’s Jewelry with Excess Lead

BALTIMORE, MD (April 27, 2010) – The Baltimore City Health Department has issued a violation notice to one business prohibiting the sale of two children’s jewelry products that were identified with a lead level in metal components above 300 parts per million (ppm). The Consumer Product Safety Commission has been alerted to the most recent findings.

The Interim 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.

“These products were found to be extremely high in lead content. Excess lead levels in children can severely impair development and can even cause death,” said Interim Commissioner Farrow. “The Health Department will continue to look for children’s products with high lead levels so parents can shop with confidence, knowing toys sold in the city are safe.”

On August 14, 2008, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) published new, more stringent standards on permissible lead content in children’s products. As of August 14, 2009, children’s jewelry with metal components containing in excess of 300 ppm of total lead is banned. The permissible level will drop to 100 ppm on August 14, 2011.

The following items were sold at the below businesses:

JH Dollar & Party, 4618 Edmondson Ave.

1)



Neon Leaf Anklet Chain

Total Lead Content:
51,800 ppm

2)



Neon Heart Anklet Chain

Total Lead Content:
82,700 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.

The Health Department tested 8 children's jewelry products in February 2010. The above products were the only products found to be in excess of 300 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

###