



BCHD PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Health Department Testing Reveals Items of Children’s Jewelry With Excess Lead

BALTIMORE, MD (May 17, 2011) – The Baltimore City Health Department has issued a violation notice to two businesses prohibiting the sale of two items of children’s jewelry that were identified with a lead level in metal components above 300 parts per million (ppm). The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) 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.

“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 Commissioner Barbot. “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 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:

1) Party City, 6311 York Rd.

Item: Peace Sign necklace-Chain

Total Lead Content: 355 ppm



2) Jackie's Beauty Discount, 709 Washington Blvd

Items: Dora necklace-clasp

Total Lead Content: 200,000 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 Health Department ordered laboratory testing of four children's jewelry products in March 2011 and four additional products in April 2011. Only the above products were found to be in excess of 300 parts per million.

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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