

CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Commissioner
210 Guilford Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21202

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Katie Burns

PHONE: 410-396-4387

mediahealth@baltimorecity.gov

Testing Reveals Items of Children's Jewelry with Excess Lead

BALTIMORE, MD (May 14, 2008) — The Baltimore City Health Department has issued violation notices to two businesses prohibiting the sale of children's jewelry products that were identified with a lead levels in metal components above 600 parts per million. The Consumer Product Safety Commission has been alerted.

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

Under a regulation adopted on December 7, 2006, children's jewelry containing more than 1200 parts per million 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 parts per million of total lead are banned.

The items identified were sold at Wal-Mart, 2701 Port Covington Drive, and Murray's, 2317 E. Northern Parkway, and are listed below:

1) Wal-Mart



Product packaging



Specific piece that contains a high level of lead

Stud earrings with blue hearts by Girl Connection. The studs contained 70,400 parts per million of lead.

2) Murray's



Vending machine necklace.
The pendant contained
2,940 parts per million of
lead.



Vending machine necklace.
The pendant contained
3,740 parts per million of
lead.

"These results prove that there are still lead hazards out there even though manufacturers continually promise that they are taking necessary precautions," said Olivia Farrow, assistant commissioner for environmental health. "The implementation of Maryland's law and federal action cannot come soon enough."

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 Consumer Product Safety Commission is reviewing {the comment period ended} comments about a proposal to create a rule establishing a legal limit of 600 parts per million for lead in children's jewelry. Such a standard is not in effect at the federal level.

The Health Department tested 17 items of children's jewelry in April 2007. The above items were the only items 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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