

CITY OF BALTIMORE

SHEILA DIXON, Mayor



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: *Ingrid Antonia*

PHONE: 443-984-2623

Mediahealth@baltimorecity.gov

Testing Reveals Item of Children’s Jewelry with Excess Lead

BALTIMORE, MD (August 18, 2008) — The Baltimore City Health Department has issued a violation notice to a business prohibiting the sale of a children’s jewelry product that was identified with a lead level in metal components above 600 parts per million. This same business was issued a violation notice earlier this year in June for selling a similar ring with Dora Explorer, which contained 50,600 parts per million of lead. 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 item identified was sold at Clever Mart, 200-214 N. Highland Avenue and is listed below:



Sponge Bob ring – the ring contained 50,500 parts per million of lead.

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 8 items of children's jewelry in August 2008. The above item was the only item 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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