



BCHD PRESS RELEASE

Baltimore City Health Department
1001 E. Fayette Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Mayor – Oxiris Barbot, M.D., Commissioner of Health

Media Contact:

Brian Schleter

443-984-2623

mediahealth@baltimorecity.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Testing Reveals Items of Children’s Jewelry With Excess Lead

BALTIMORE, MD (April 28, 2011) — The Baltimore City Health Department has issued a violation notice to two businesses prohibiting the sale of three 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 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 (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:

1) A Dollar, 200 E. Pratt St.

Item: Blue Flower Ring

Total Lead Content: Ring Base - 13,000 ppm; Ring Charm - 70,000 ppm



2) Beauty Lane, 7621 Harford Road

Items: Rhinestone Girl Chain & Rhinestone Girl Charm

Total Lead Content: Rhinestone - 18,500 ppm; Charm - 20,900 ppm



3) Beauty Lane, 7621 Harford Road

Item: Pink Star Ring

Total Lead Content: 34,700 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 Health Department ordered laboratory testing of 15 children's jewelry products in September 2010 and 3 additional products in November 2010. 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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