

CITY OF BALTIMORE

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**Testing Reveals Items of Children’s Jewelry with Excess Lead
Retail Sale Prohibited in Baltimore City**

February 9, 2007 – The Baltimore City Health Department has issued notices to three businesses prohibiting the retail sale of four items of children’s jewelry that were identified with a lead level in metal components above 1200 parts per million.

The Health Commissioner is deeming all products of the same style and manufacturer of these four items to be a nuisance to public health. These products 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 may not be offered for retail sale in Baltimore City. Starting September 1, 2007, children’s jewelry with metal components containing in excess of 600 parts per million of total lead will be banned.

The items are:



A necklace with a sandal charm sold at Totally Kids, 321 W. Lexington St., as part of an “Essential for Kids” set. The charm and clasp contained 24,810 parts per million of lead.



A bracelet with a sandal charm sold at Totally Kids, 321 W. Lexington St., as part of an “Essential for Kids” set. The charm and clasp contained 24,000 parts per million of lead.



A pair of pink stud earrings sold at Dollar Tree, 3842 E. Lombard St., as part of a “Beary Cute” set. Metal component contained 12,890 parts per million of lead



A pair of hair barrettes sold at The Children’s Place, 200 E. Pratt. One barrette contained 1,893 parts per million of lead. The other barrette contained 2,525 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 accepting 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 approximately 20 items of children’s jewelry in January 2007. The above items were the only items found to be in excess of 1200 parts per million. A full report of the testing and results will be released next week.

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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