

CITY OF BALTIMORE

MARTIN O'MALLEY, Mayor



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Media Contact: Melisa Lindamood
Acting Public Information Officer
410-396-4677 office, 443-739-0452 cell
melisa.lindamood@baltimorecity.gov*

Baltimore Statement Advises Parents of Young Children Against Use of Over-the-Counter Cough and Cold Preparations

Baltimore, MD (October 26, 2006) – Senior pediatricians at nine area hospitals, including Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland, are joining the Health Commissioner and other medical leaders in endorsing a statement advising parents against using over-the-counter cough and cold medications for children ages five and under.

The Baltimore Statement finds that there is no evidence to support the effectiveness of these nonprescription medicines in reducing symptoms in young children, and the side effects of some of these drugs could cause harm. Inappropriate use of the medications has been associated with the deaths of four children in recent years, including one in the last few months.

“This statement is an especially important message for parents now that cold and flu season is upon us,” said Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Commissioner of Health.

The Health Department is also releasing recommendations on what parents should do for colds in children ages five and under.

###