

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 Antonio
Public Information Officer
Phone: 443-984-2623*

Testing Reveals Item of Children's Jewelry with Excess Lead

BALTIMORE, MD (September 19, 2008) — The Baltimore City Health Department has issued a violation notice to a business prohibiting the sale of a children's jewelry products that were identified with a lead level in metal components above 600 parts per million (ppm). This is the sixth consecutive month in which children's jewelry in excess of 600 ppm has been found sold in the City. 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.

Under a regulation adopted on December 7, 2006, children's jewelry containing more than 1,200 ppm 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 ppm of total lead are banned.

The items identified were sold at Party City, 6311 York Road, and are listed below:

1)



My Little Angel bracelet – the bracelet contained 1,230 ppm of lead and the angel charm contained 2,040 ppm of lead

2)



What's Your Mood necklace –
the smiley face charm
contained 18,100 ppm of lead

3)



Best Friends bracelet – the
"Best" bracelet contained
1,920 ppm 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 September 2008. 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

###