



BCHD PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Health Department Testing Reveals Items of Children’s Jewelry With Excess Lead

BALTIMORE, MD (June 14, 2011) – The Baltimore City Health Department has issued violation notices to three businesses prohibiting the sale of 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 (CPSC) 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.

Excess lead levels in children can severely impair development and can even cause death.

“One of these products is labeled ‘lead compliant,’ yet it contains 18,000 ppm of lead, far above the regulated limit of 300 ppm,” said Commissioner of Health Dr. Oxiris 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 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) Fashion Kiosk at Mondawmin Mall, 2401 Liberty Heights Ave.**
Item: 4pc Pink & Rhinestone Flower Set (Rhinestone flower clip on earrings)
Total Lead Content: 18,000 ppm



- 2) **Beauty Max, 2222 E. Monument St**
Item: Strawberry Charm Bracelet (Big Strawberry Charm)
Total Lead Content: 180,000 ppm



- 3) **KG Beauty, 2465 Frederick Ave.**
Item: 3 piece Pearl Set (Pearl Necklace)
Total Lead Content: Clasp – 3,800 ppm; Chain – 280,000 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 CPSC maintains a list of recalled products that contain metals which are known to be toxic at certain levels of exposure at <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prerel.html>. To reduce the chances of lead poisoning, parents should not allow children to swallow, suck on or chew a metal charm or necklace jewelry.

The Health Department ordered laboratory testing of 11 children's jewelry products in May and June 2011. 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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