

For Immediate Release
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CONTACT: Lindsay Hodges (DOH), 850-245-4111
Terence McElroy (DACS), 850-488-3022

**DOH, DACS WARNS PUBLIC CERTAIN TOY NECKLACES
CONTAIN LEAD, POSE HEALTH RISK**

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Health (DOH) today reminded parents and the general public of a United States Consumer Product Safety Commission recall of a toy necklace that contains hazardous concentrations of lead, which can pose a health risk. Further, DOH officials warned that several other toy necklaces tested had high concentrations of lead.

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles Bronson called on the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission to expand an earlier nationwide recall to include additional toy necklaces that contain hazardous concentrations of lead. Bronson also called on vendors in Florida to honor the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's recall on the initial product.

“Even though one product was recalled more than 2 months ago, we know there are several toy necklaces that continue to pose a health risk to our most vulnerable members of our community – our children,” said DOH Secretary John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A. “A bright, middle school student's science fair project led us to issue this alert by showing that these toys containing unsafe levels of lead remain on the market.”

The toy necklaces specifically recalled September 10, 2003, consist of a 10-inch black cord with a 7/8-inch gray metal pendant. Other necklaces of concern are silver in color, feature medallions of various shapes and sizes, and are suspended by a black cord, beads, or a silver chain. They are contained in plastic capsules and are purchased from novelty vending machines found at many retail businesses, malls, and grocery stores in Florida.

Children can be exposed to lead from these necklaces by putting the medallion in their mouths, or by swallowing one of the small medallions, which can result in physical harm as well as lead exposure.

Exposure to lead paint dust from older homes is the most common cause of lead poisoning, but contact with lead products also pose a definite health risk to children. Lead poisoning can occur from being exposed to even small amounts of lead. Long-term consequences of lead exposure include, learning disabilities, anemia, hearing loss and behavioral problems.

- If your child has had one of these medallions in their mouth, contact your local health care provider or your local county health department to have your child tested for lead.
- If your child swallows one of these medallions (or any other metal object), call your health care provider immediately.

To discard the medallion, simply place it in the household trash. Do not burn these toys, as fumes may be hazardous.



Jeb Bush
Governor

John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A.
Secretary

For more information on lead poisoning, contact DOH's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 850-245-4444, extension 2828.

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