

MAINE PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT NETWORK SYSTEM



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****ADVISORY – Important Information****

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TO: Hospitals, Emergency Department, Schools, Day Care Centers,
FROM: Dora Anne Mills, M.D., M.P.H., Public Health Director
SUBJECT: More Toys Recalled Because of Lead Paint
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More Toys Recalled Because of Lead Based Paint

The Department of Health and Human Services' Maine Center for Disease Control (Maine CDC) wants to remind Maine parents what they can do about common toys that have been recently recalled because they contain lead.

Dr. Dora Anne Mills, Director of the Maine CDC stated that since we know that lead poisoning affects the developing brains of young children, it is alarming to hear that once again a common toy is being recalled because of lead paint.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recently recalled several Fisher-Price and Mattel character toys because of lead paint. These include Sesame Street and Dora the Explorer toys that are popular toys for toddlers. Those that are recalled were sold between May 2007 and August 2007.

Children who put these toys in their mouths, or who play with the toys and put their hands in their mouths may get lead poisoned. The CPSC is not aware of any lead poisoning linked to these specific toys. Children younger than 3 years of age are at most risk, especially if they frequently put their hands or their toys in their mouths. Pictures of the toys and additional information are available on CPSC's website:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07257.html> and
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07270.html>

Maine families are encouraged to follow these simple steps:

- If you know you have these toys, take them away from children. Call Fisher-Price at (800) 916-4498 or Mattel at (800) 916-4997 for free replacement toys.
- If you know you have the recalled toys and your children are less than 3 years old – especially if your child has not had a recent blood lead test - contact your health care provider about having a blood lead-screening test.
- If you have Fisher-Price or Mattel Toys but are not sure if you have the toys in question, you can test them with a lead test kit from your local hardware store.
- Call the Maine CDC's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program if you have any questions at: 1-866-292-3474.

Unfortunately, this recall is the latest in a long list of toys and children's jewelry recalled by CPSC for lead hazards. There have been at least 11 other major toy recalls so far this year due to lead toxicants. We urge families with young children to periodically check the Maine CDC's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program website for links to the recalled toys with pictures, which can be found at: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/eohp/lead>.

Despite these many recalls, the major cause of lead poisoning for Maine children is still the presence of lead paint and lead contaminated dust in old homes. Because of the potential for lead exposure in house paint, all children should have a blood lead-screening test at one and two years old