



1819 Farnam St., Room 401, Omaha, Nebraska, 68183-0401

Promoting and Protecting Public Health

For Immediate Release: May 2, 2008

Contact: **Reid Steinkraus – Lead Program Supervisor**; Douglas County Health Department - Lead Program (402) 444-7825

Possible Lead in Candy Raises Health Concerns

The Douglas County Health Department is asking parents to help protect their children from possible lead contamination in imported candy.

“Some of these candies have tested positive for dangerously high levels of lead,” said Dr. Adi Pour “Our biggest concern is for the young children.”

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has reported a San Antonio company’s voluntary recall of some Mexican candies packaged in jars, while the California Department of Public Health has advised consumers not to eat Ed La Rose Pulparindo Candy. That product also was voluntarily recalled by a California distributor.

In addition, the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services has suggested consumers not eat the following products that may contain lead: Picarindo, Vero Rebanaditas, Vero Mango, Vero Elotes, Chaca Chaca, Brinquitos, Tama Roca, Pelon Pelo Rico, Bolirindo, Dulce de Tamarindo, Licona Tamarind, Jarrita Chonita, Margarita Dulce de Tamarindo, Rollito de Tamarindo (Dulmex), Strock Eucalyptus, Lucas Acidito, Pica Limon, Serpentinias and Tablarindo.

Lead exposure can be harmful, especially for infants, young children and pregnant women. Lead can cause permanent damage to the central nervous system that in turn can cause learning disabilities, behavioral disorders and other long-term health problems.

Children, who have high blood lead levels may be tired, irritable, eat less, have poor attention spans, headaches, vomiting, constipation, experience muscle weakness or coordination difficulties and have difficulty sleeping.

It is important to remember that some children who have lead poisoning may not look or act sick, so testing is the only way to be certain they are in good health.

“With so many alternatives on the market, we are asking parents to choose another option for their children if they feel like giving them candy,” said Diana Acero-Lead Program Coordinator. “We also want them to contact us about having their child tested so we can find help for them.”

For more information, please contact the Douglas County Health Department’s Lead Control program at 444-7825 or 444-1881 (Spanish Information Line).

www.douglascountyhealth.com

**Adi Pour, Ph.D., Director
1819 Farnam St., #401
Omaha, NE 68183**