



Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency
Healthy People, Healthy Communities

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Press Release

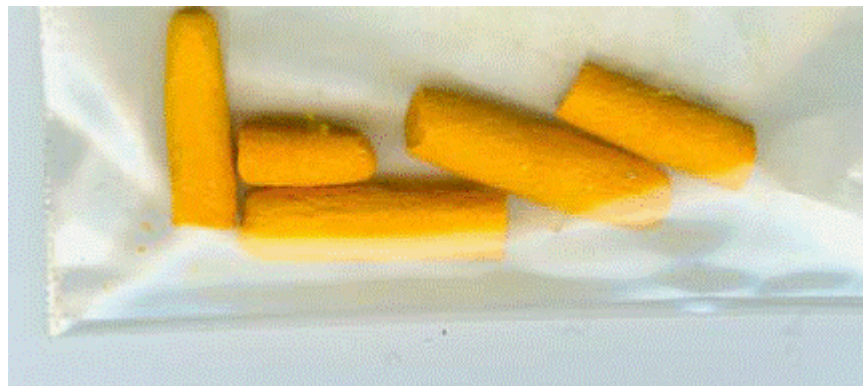
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WARNING: NEW LEAD SOURCES - COSMETIC CHALK AND DARRELL LEA YOGURT RASPBERRY LIQUORICE

(Ukiah) The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program of Santa Clara County recently found a new lead source during a home visit for a 3 year old child with lead poisoning. The source identified was a yellow cosmetic chalk (srichoornam) which was applied to the child's face on a weekly basis as part of a religious practice. All of the cosmetic chalk was reported to have been obtained directly from India. The chalk was tested at the California State Environmental Health lab. A white chalk was also being applied to the child's face on a weekly basis and was tested and also found to contain lead.



The yellow cosmetic chalk (srichoornam) is reported to be made from turmeric and rice powder. It is used by males (including male children) for religious purposes. Four additional chalk samples from different parts of India were also tested and found to contain lead. There is no information

available regarding a manufacturer or distributor. Please consider this type of cosmetic chalk as a health hazard due to the high lead content.

Another recent lead warning from Dr. Mark Horton, director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) raised the awareness of a lead concern in a product called Darrell Lea



Yogurt Coated Soft Eating Raspberry Liquorice because CDPH tests found four times the recommended total daily exposure levels of lead. This product should not be consumed.

Darrell Lea Chocolate Shops Pty. Ltd. of Australia is initiating a voluntary recall of this liquorice. The Australian candy manufacturer is partnering with the United States distributor to ensure that the contaminated candies are removed from the market. Consumers in possession of the candy should discard it immediately.

Pregnant women and parents of children who may have consumed this candy should consult their physician or health care provider to determine if medical testing is needed.

Consumers who find this liquorice for sale are encouraged to call the CDPH Complaint Hotline at 1-800-495-3232.

For more information about lead poisoning, contact Mendocino County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program of the Health and Human Services Agency, Community Health Services Branch at (707) 472-2600, (707) 456-3801, or toll free at 1-800-734-7793.

Additional information is available by visiting [California Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch](#).

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