



Your Partner for a Healthy Community
Inclusion through Diversity

Community Health Services

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To: Child Care Providers, Child Development Council, Early HeadStart, HeadStart
Cornell Cooperative Extension, Children with Special Care Needs, WIC

From: Karen Bishop, RN, BS
Community Health Nurse Supervisor

Re: Lead Poisoning Cases related to use of Chinese medicinal products

This is an alert regarding the incidence of two locally lead poisoned children. Public Health Nurse and Environmental Health staff conducted home visits and found the exposures occurred due to use of Chinese medicinal products as described below.

#1 – Two year old exposed to an **orange powder** mixed with water and used as a paste in the diaper area and on the face. The powder, "**Hondan**", originated from a Chinese compound pharmacy. It was sent for testing and results confirmed the product was comprised of 8.55% lead by weight. The EPA considers lead based paint to be a hazard if the paint contains more than 0.5% lead by weight. The powder has been sent to the New York State Department of Health Laboratory who will contact the FDA.

#2 – Ten month old exposed to an **orange ointment** applied to skin rash on thigh. The orange ointment, "**Yi SaoGuang**", originates from China and the third ingredient listed on the product was lead paste. Lab testing of the ointment confirmed the ointment was comprised of 12% lead by weight. The New York State Department of Health Laboratory contacted the FDA.

What you can do:

- **Inquire** about the use of these products and any "orange" colored product with the children you care for.
- **Educate** parents about the risk of lead poisoning with these products.
- **Encourage** them to discontinue use, discard such products and get their child lead tested.
- **Promote** routine lead testing of one and two year old children.
- **Direct** parents to discuss their concerns with their child's primary care provider.
- **Go** to these websites for more lead information: www.tompkins-co.org/health OR www.ccetompkins.org