

 **STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

Corning Tower The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12237

Richard F. Daines, M.D.
Commissioner

August 2007

Dear Child Care Provider:

The purpose of this letter is to alert you to the recent recalls of approximately 1,200,000 toys from Fisher-Price and Mattel in early August 2007, and to advise you on actions that you must take to minimize childrens' exposure to lead and choking hazards from these recalled toys. These toys include licensed characters from movies and television shows such as Dora the Explorer, Sesame Street, and Cars. Additionally, RC2 Corporation initiated a recall of approximately 1,500,000 wooden "Thomas and Friends" toys in June, 2007. These particular recalls have been initiated because the paints on the toys may have high levels of lead.

The NYS Department of Health posts recalls related to lead online at <http://nyhealth.gov/environmental/lead/recalls/>. Additionally, the Consumer Product Safety Commission posts recalls online at <http://www.cpsc.gov>. To find out if any Fisher-Price or Mattel toys are covered under the recall, you can search online at <http://service.mattel.com/us/recall.asp>.

In order to prevent children from possible exposure to lead and choking hazards from these toys, all day care providers must take the following steps:

- Check the toys in your facility against the recall lists, and remove recalled toys immediately.
- Child care providers must put the toys in places where children cannot use them, until the toys can be returned or destroyed as directed. Because each recall is different, the State Department of Health recommends that you check the recall notices to learn how to return the toy for a refund or replacement.

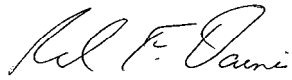
Child care providers who find recalled toys containing lead in their facility must advise parents to contact their family pediatricians to assess the need for lead testing. Local health departments can also serve as a valuable resource for information on childhood lead poisoning prevention. If a child does not have health insurance, or their insurance does not cover blood lead tests, the parents or guardians should contact their local health departments. They can help the child get a blood lead test. They will also help parents to get health insurance for their child.

The NYS Department of Health has developed a series of questions and answers for parents, relating to this recall. This information is enclosed in this letter. Additionally, we have included contact information for all local health departments and Regional Lead Resource

Centers, and a copy of the press release issued by the Governor's Office. An order form for educational materials that you can provide to parents and guardians, at no cost, is enclosed for your use.

If you would like additional information on childhood lead poisoning, please visit the Department of Health's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention website at <http://www.nyhealth.gov/environmental/lead/index.htm>. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact your local health department Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program or the New York State Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at (518) 402-5706.

Sincerely,



Richard F. Daines, M.D.
Commissioner of Health



Gladys Carrión, Esq.
Commissioner
New York State Office of Children
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Enclosures