

Delaware General Health District

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NEWS RELEASE

RASH OUTBREAK IN DELAWARE COUNTY LEADS TO FACE PAINT RECALL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DELAWARE, Oh., May 14, 2009 – An outbreak of child skin rashes investigated by the Delaware General Health District in March led to a nationwide product recall announced Tuesday.

The Food and Drug Administration advises people not to use six varieties of face paint manufactured by Shanghai Color Art Stationery Company Limited of Shanghai, China. The products have been distributed nationwide by Oriental Trading Co. of Omaha, Neb. Fun Express, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Oriental Trading Co., is voluntarily recalling the face paint at the request of the FDA.

The FDA recall announcement states that “significant microbial contamination was indicated in most of the products in testing by an FDA laboratory.”

Dozens of children who got their faces painted at an event in Delaware County on Feb. 28 subsequently developed skin rashes. Surveys conducted by the Delaware General Health District indicated at least 43 children experienced rashes which most described as red, itchy and/or bumpy. School nurses reported the rashes the following Monday and assisted in the Health District’s investigation.

In cooperation with the event’s organizers, the Health District collected several tubes of the face paint and turned them over to the FDA for testing. More of the paint was collected by Franklin County Board of Health staff from the retailer who sold it to people involved with the Feb. 28 children’s event. That retailer pulled the paint from its shelves at that time. FDA tests of the face paint led to Tuesday’s recall announcement.

The Health District investigation showed that the purple and red face paints caused the most rashes, and most of the rashes broke out where the paint had been applied. The rashes returned on some of the children days later when they were exposed to sunshine. Three children were taken to doctors because of their rashes.

The recall covers blue, purple, red, orange, black, and green face paints sold in one-ounce plastic tubes. One Health District survey respondent said the paint seemed old, had separated, and was hard to squeeze out of the tube.

The FDA recall announcement is available at www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2009/NEW02015.html.