

**Kiddie Kollege
Franklinville, Gloucester County
Mercury Fact Sheet #2: August 15, 2006**

What have the State and federal health agencies done regarding children's exposures to mercury at Kiddie Kollege?

Since the Kiddie Kollege Day Care Center was closed on July 28, the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) and the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry/National Center for Environmental Health (ATSDR) have done the following:

- inspected the facility to determine the source of mercury vapor
- advised that the building should remain closed, and that additional environmental sampling should take place to characterize the building
- determined that children and staff should be tested for mercury exposure
- brought the Mt. Sinai (New York) Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit into the health team for Kiddie Kollege
- met with parents and staff
- prepared an environmental sampling plan recommending sampling locations for Kiddie Kollege indoor air and surface wipes, which was used as the recommendation to the building owner's environmental consultant
- provided urine collection containers and instructions to parents and staff
- picked up urine samples, prepared the samples for transport, and shipped them to the National Center for Environmental Health laboratory for analysis
- retrieved historical records of staff and students from the day care center site
- contacted all parents and staff by telephone to provide individual urine analysis results
- notified parents and staff by telephone of tonight's (August 15) meeting with NJDHSS, ATSDR and a Mt. Sinai pediatrician.

In addition, the NJDHSS and ATSDR have developed fact sheets on relevant issues and have had many conversations with parents and area pediatricians.

How many students and staff participated in the urine mercury screening that occurred on August 7, 2006?

On August 7, the NJDHSS received urine samples from 9 staff and 60 children from Kiddie Kollege. These included students and staff who had attended or worked at Kiddie Kollege any time after June 8, 2006. June 8th was chosen as the initial cut-off date for sample collection eligibility because it was 60 days prior to the sample collection date, and mercury has a 60 day biological half-life (that is, we expect that half of the elemental mercury in a person's body would have already been excreted through urine).



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What were the results of that testing?

- The average level of urine mercury for children and staff was 4.39 micrograms of mercury per gram of creatinine. The lowest level was 0.34 micrograms of mercury per gram of creatinine. The highest level was 17.54 micrograms of mercury per gram of creatinine.
- For children only, the average level was 4.35 micrograms of mercury per gram of creatinine, with a range of 0.34 to 17.54 micrograms of mercury per gram of creatinine.
- For adults only, the average level was 4.63 micrograms of mercury per gram of creatinine, with a range of 0.61 to 11.36 micrograms of mercury per gram of creatinine.

However, when we separated children and staff by the length of time they were away from Kiddie Kollege we found the following:

- Children who were last at Kiddie Kollege on or after July 20 had an average of 3.67 micrograms of mercury per gram of creatinine. Their levels ranged from 1.66 to 17.54 micrograms of mercury per gram of creatinine.
- Children who attended Kiddie Kollege after June 11 but before July 19 had an average of 1.87 micrograms of mercury per gram of creatinine, with a range of 0.34 to 3.88 micrograms of mercury per gram of creatinine.

This shows that childrens' urine mercury levels decreased with time away from Kiddie Kollege. In fact, none of the children who attended the school prior to July 19 had a urine mercury level higher than the background levels.

What do the NJDHSS and ATSDR plan to do next?

For all students and staff that had urine mercury levels greater than 5 micrograms of mercury per gram of creatinine, the NJDHSS and ATSDR plan to collect another urine sample approximately 4 weeks after the initial sample was collected for follow-up analysis. This will take place during the last week of August 2006.

For any student or staff member who attended or worked at Kiddie Kollege after June 8, 2006 but was not included in the original urine sampling, the NJDHSS and ATSDR will distribute sample collection materials on August 15, 2006 and pick them up on August 17, 2006.

Who can I speak with if I have any further questions about my child's urine mercury test results or other health issues related to mercury?

You should speak with your child's pediatrician, or the Mt. Sinai Medical Center's Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit at (866) 265-6201.