

Timeline: JULY 28 THROUGH OCTOBER 20, 2006

**New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
National Center For Environmental Health
Mt. Sinai Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit
Response to Kiddie Kollege**

<i>DATE</i>	<i>Event/Action Taken</i>
July 28, 2006 3:30 p.m.	<p>The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) informed the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) that elevated levels of mercury were found in air and wipe samples taken at Kiddie Kollege Day Care Center, Franklinville, Gloucester County. NJDHSS recommended that the center be closed at the end of the business day.</p> <p>NJDEP advised the owner of the business, as well as the property owner, that children and staff should not be allowed in the building pending further investigation.</p> <p>NJDHSS informed Gloucester County Health Department of the NJDEP action.</p> <p>NJDHSS discusses need for closing of the business with business owner; owner voluntarily closes Kiddie Kollege</p>
July 31, 2006	<p>NJDHSS visited the site with NJDEP to inspect the facility to determine the source of mercury vapor. Inspection revealed liquid mercury droplets in building basement. Therefore, NJDHSS advised that the building should remain closed, and that additional environmental sampling should take place to characterize the building.</p> <p>NJDHSS contacted the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to inform them of situation.</p> <p>NJDHSS determined that children and staff should be tested for mercury exposure. NJDHSS and ATSDR identified a laboratory to perform the analyses (the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) laboratory).</p>
August 1, 2006	<p>NJDHSS determined that it was important to meet with parents and staff as soon as possible to discuss our actions. A meeting was scheduled to take place on August 2 in Franklinville. Since only current children and staff records were available at that time, notification was limited to that group.</p>
August 2, 2006	<p>NJDHSS and ATSDR contacted Mt. Sinai (New York) Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit to advise of the Kiddie Kollege</p>

	<p>situation and the likelihood that parents and area pediatricians would contact them for information.</p> <p>NJDHSS prepared a fact sheet on Kiddie Kollege mercury exposures to provide to parents and staff at the evening meeting.</p> <p>NJDHSS and ATSDR participated in a conference call reviewing site's known history, laboratory and sample handling procedures, follow-up environmental monitoring, and concerns relating to take-home exposures.</p> <p>NJDHSS, ATSDR and the Gloucester County Health Department met with parents and staff to discuss possible exposures to mercury at the day care center and potential health risks. Also discussed plans to sample urine from children and staff who had attended or worked at the center after June 8, 2006. With input from parents it was agreed that NJDHSS and ATSDR would provide urine sample containers on Friday, August 4 and that parents would collect a spot first morning sample on Monday, August 7.</p>
August 3, 2006	<p>Gloucester County Health Department conducted outreach to area pediatricians advising them of the issues relating to Kiddie Kollege and providing contact information for NJDHSS and Mt. Sinai.</p> <p>NJDHSS receives urine sample collection materials from NCEH laboratory. NJDHSS develops database containing parent/staff contact information</p> <p>NJDHSS prepared an environmental sampling plan with recommended sampling locations for Kiddie Kollege indoor air and surface wipes. The plan was faxed to NJDEP. This sampling plan was recommended to the building owner's environmental consultant.</p>
August 4, 2006	<p>NJDHSS and ATSDR distributed urine cups and pediatric urine collection containers to parents and staff, from noon to 8:00 p.m. Also provided was a summary sheet on how to collect the sample, information on the testing, data handling, and confidentiality of the results.</p> <p>NJDHSS retrieved historical records of staff and students who previously attended Kiddie Kollege that were on site at the day care center.</p>
August 7, 2006	<p>NJDHSS retrieved urine samples from parents and staff from 7 a.m. through 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>NJDHSS prepared urine samples for shipment to NCEH laboratory (aliquoted samples for mercury and creatinine analyses); shipped samples to the NCEH laboratory.</p>

	<p>NJDHSS began evaluating records retrieved from the day care center in an effort to prepare a complete list of children and staff who had ever attended or worked at the facility. Also incorporated are individuals who contacted NJDHSS by telephone and other means. This activity is ongoing.</p>
August 8, 2006	<p>NCEH laboratory received urine samples; completed initial analyses by 9:00 p.m.</p>
August 9, 2006	<p>NJDHSS, ATSDR, Mt. Sinai and NCEH participated in a conference call to update on all activities, discuss potential urine mercury levels of concern, and confirm laboratory analysis was nearly completed.</p> <p>NCEH laboratory completed confirmatory testing of samples. NCEH provided verified and coded results to NJDHSS and ATSDR via e-mail at the end of the day.</p> <p>NJDHSS attended an NJDEP meeting with parents and staff, provided a summary of what we had done to date and answered questions.</p>
August 10, 2006	<p>NJDHSS, ATSDR, NCEH and Mt. Sinai participated in a conference call to discuss urine mercury levels actually measured (without identifiers) and develop appropriate means to communicate results with parents and staff.</p> <p>NJDHSS staff contacted all parents and staff by telephone to provide individual urine analysis results. Phone calls began at 6:30 p.m. and continued through the evening. Individuals who were not at home were contacted the following morning.</p>
August 11, 2006	<p>NJDHSS advised parents and staff by telephone of the upcoming (August 15) meeting with NJDHSS, ATSDR/NCEH and a Mt. Sinai pediatrician. Staff also followed up on numerous calls from parents.</p>
August 14, 2006	<p>NJDHSS, ATSDR and Mt. Sinai participated in a conference call to discuss follow-up and sampling schedule of children and staff with urine mercury levels greater than 5 micrograms mercury per gram of creatinine (4 weeks after first sample), and testing of children and staff that were eligible for the initial testing but missed.</p> <p>NJDHSS prepared letters to parents and staff with results that had been provided verbally on August 10 and 11.</p>
August 15, 2006	<p>NJDHSS, ATSDR and Mt. Sinai pediatricians met with parents and staff regarding results received; also provided urine sample collection materials for staff and students that were eligible but were missed during the initial screening (that is, those who attended any time after June 8, 2006).</p>
August 17, 2006	<p>NJDHSS collected urine samples that were obtained from 12 individuals who were eligible for the initial screening, from 8 to 10:30 a.m. The samples were prepped and shipped to the NCEH laboratory.</p>

August 22, 2006	NJDHSS scheduled follow-up collection dates (August 30 and September 6, 2006) for the 22 individuals with an initial mercury in urine level that was greater than 5 micrograms mercury per gram of creatinine, and included two additional eligible but missed children. NJDHSS sent urine collection materials to each and notified the families of the scheduled collection dates.
August 30, 2006	NJDHSS received follow-up urine specimens from 17 individuals. Samples were processed and sent to the NCEH laboratory.
September 6, 2006	NJDHSS received follow-up urine specimens from 4 individuals, and 2 specimens from eligible but missed individuals. Samples were processed and sent to the NCEH laboratory.
September 6, 2006	NJDHSS website updated to include relevant Kiddie Kollege information, found at http://www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/cehsweb/kiddiekollege/index.shtml
September 8, 2006	NJDHSS received analytical results of the August 30 samples and began notifying parents and individuals (verbally and in writing).
September 19, 2006	NJDHSS received analytical results of the September 6 samples and began notifying parents and individuals (verbally and in writing).
September 20, 2006	NJDHSS mailed a letter from the US Environmental Protection Agency to parents and staff that had participated in urine testing to offer testing of their homes for mercury.
October 6, 2006	Kiddie Kollege Fact Sheet No. 3 was mailed to all individuals that attended any NJDHSS or NJDEP meeting, participated in the urine testing, or had contacted the NJDHSS.
October 10 and 17, 2006	NJDHSS received urine specimens from 14 individuals identified for testing.
November 10, 2006	NJDHSS, ATSDR and Mt. Sinai will hold a public meeting to describe urine testing results and future planned actions, including a proposed early December testing of any former student or staff of Kiddie Kollege.