Mercury Poisoning Update- New Cream Identified

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From: Texas

Alert ID: DSHS-2011-2341

In cooperation with regional & local health departments have identified 44 confirmed cases and another 54 potential cases of mercury poisoning in six Texas counties. Nearly all individuals have reported using Crema Aguamary face and/or eye creams, manufactured in Mexico. Six individuals in the El Paso area have reported used Crema Antiedad y Desmanchadora, a nearly identical product. Samples of these creams submitted to the DSHS Laboratory contained up to 130,000 parts per million (ppm) mercury (13%) by weight, a level much higher than the FDA limit of 1 ppm. Signs and symptoms frequently reported by cream users include:

- personality changes,
- nervousness,
- irritability,
- tremors,
- weakness,
- fatigue,
- excessive sweating,
- mouth, tongue, or gum ulcers/sores,
- elevated blood pressure,
- memory loss,
- pins-and-needles sensations in extremities,
- severe pains or cramps in arms and/or legs,
- muscle aches,
- excess protein in the urine,
- renal failure.

Patients who have used Aguamary or Antiedad creams should stop using the creams and should be tested for blood and/or urine mercury. Physicians or their patients may call the Texas Poison Control Network at: (800) 222-1222 regarding treatment recommendations.