

February 8, 2016

Dear Personal Services Owner/Operator:

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is informing Operators of Personal Service Settings that the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) recently released updates to the provincial guidelines, the *Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS), 2015*. Included under these standards is the revised *Infection Prevention and Control for Personal Service Settings Protocol, 2015*. The protocol provides inspection standards and applies to those providing personal service(s) such as, but not limited to: hairdressing, barbering, tattooing, body piercing, esthetic services, electrolysis and acupuncture.

Under the revised *Infection Prevention and Control for Personal Service Settings Protocol 2015*, health units within Ontario are now required to:

- Post summary reports of complaint investigations conducted in personal service settings that identified a lapse in Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) practices that may have an adverse effect on the public's health. These reports will be posted on the health unit website.

An IPAC lapse is a failure in infection prevention and control best practices that may result in an infectious disease being spread to clients or staff through contact with blood, body fluids and/or infectious lesions.

If you are a regulated health professional offering personal services, the MOHLTC is also enhancing public health inspection programs through:

- Annual routine inspections of all regulated health professionals conducting personal services, in addition to routine inspections conducted of all personal service settings.
- Working with regulatory colleges on investigations involving regulated health professionals performing personal services.
- Taking action under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1990* to decrease or eliminate health hazards identified during routine inspections or complaint investigations as needed.

To meet these requirements, SMDHU is implementing the above processes into our standard practice and we have created an IPAC Investigation Reports page on our website. This website will include summary reports of confirmed IPAC lapses found during complaint investigations of personal service settings, settings in which regulated health professionals operate, and settings not routinely inspected by the health unit. Infection prevention and control investigation reports are available at www.smdhu.org/ipacreports.

Thank you for your cooperation and support as we work to ensure safe personal services in our communities.

Sincerely,

Ann Corner, Program Manager
Communicable Disease Program

AC/cc

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