

FROM:

Name: Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Phone: 705-721-7520

TO: Personal Service Setting Operators

DATE: April 28, 2025

RE: Halo-type Head Spas

Update:

The Halo-type head spas have recently been identified as a potential cause of illness, including from a germ called *Legionella*. Halo-type hair spas will **only be supported** for use in SMDHU if they meet the following criteria:

- Head spa is **permanently connected** to the fresh (potable) water supply of the setting;
- There are **instructions available** directly from the manufacturer of the spa on how to clean and disinfect the internal components of the head spa (including attachments and halo portion of unit);
- **No reservoirs/tanks** for holding water can be used; and
- Fresh water used in the head spa **cannot be recirculated**.

Background:

Halo head/hair spas are becoming increasingly more common. They are made of a water delivery tube in the shape of a semi-circle with several holes along the length of the tube. Water flows through the "halo" tube onto the client's hair and scalp. Water is collected in the hair wash basin and either drains away or is reused (recirculated). In addition, a cover/hood may be placed over the client's head such that steam is created inside the hood.

Mobile units that are not directly connected to plumbing are harder to clean and disinfect. This is because there may be additional pumps used, use of contaminated water, incomplete drainage of the water, and/or the growth of a biofilm (when germs stick to a surface to form a substance that is hard to clean). Given how close the streaming water/steam is to the client's eyes, nose, and mouth, if the head spa is not thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, there is a higher risk of illness, including *Legionella*, from the biofilm.

Operators wishing to offer a halo-type head spa service should contact the SMDHU prior to the purchase of the units. Prior to offering any new service operators are required to provide at least 14 days' notice to the health unit as per the Ontario Personal Service Settings regulation. Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact the Infectious Diseases Team at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 ext. 8809 or via email: ipac@smdhu.org

Sincerely,



Colin Q-T Lee, MD, MSc, CCFP (EM), FRCPC
Associate Medical Officer of Health