

Media Release

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Do Your Homework When Choosing your Personal Services

Protect yourself from blood borne infections by choosing inspected personal services establishments. The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit's Public Health Inspectors do routine checks at hair salons, tattoo parlours, piercing studios, barber shops, tanning beds and aesthetic services centres.

You can also do your homework by asking questions about your procedure. Talk about the use of sterile needles and other equipment. Look for clean and well organized areas. Hand washing and glove wearing are important for stopping the spread of infections too. Professionals should give you written and verbal after care instructions for invasive procedures and be willing to answer any of your questions.

Tattooing, body and ear piercing are practices that have been around for centuries. The basic methods for these procedures have not changed much over the years. What has changed is the risk of contracting hepatitis and HIV/AIDS through infected blood. These diseases may be passed from one person to another if dirty contaminated instruments are used.

For more information about beauty and body art safety and blood borne infections, visit healthunit.org or call the Health ACTION Line and ask to speak to a public health inspector.

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Contact: Joan Mays, Manager of Health Protection, 613-345-5685