



Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

Dickinson County

818 Pyle Drive, Kingsford, MI 49802
Ph: (906) 774-1868 Fax: (906) 774-9910
BRANCH OFFICE

www.didhd.org

Iron County

601 Washington Avenue, Iron River, MI 49935
Ph: (906) 265-9913 Fax: (906) 265-2950
MAIN OFFICE

News Release

Contact: Steve Markham, Director/Health Officer
Phone: (906)265-4192
Email: smarkham@hline.org

Immediate Release

Body Art

Kingsford, Michigan – June 9, 2014. Skin, we may not pay it much attention as we go about our daily activities, but skin is the largest organ system in the human body and is an extremely important one. Our skin is the first line of defense against all the germs, pathogens, and toxic substances we come into contact with on a daily basis.

Any time this defensive barrier (skin) is damaged due to cuts, abrasions, punctures, etc., either from injury or intentionally as is the case with body art, we run the risk of exposure to pathogens and infectious diseases. It is for this reason that the State of Michigan has passed laws regulating where, when and how body art is to be performed within its borders.

Beginning January 1, 2011, the State of Michigan has required all body art, including tattoo's body piercings, and branding to be conducted in a licensed body art facility. The law states that no person shall perform these activities outside of a licensed facility. The only exception to the law is piercing of the ears. The new regulations were enacted to ensure the protection of both the artist and client from bloodborne diseases and bacterial infections that can have serious health effects and could even result in death.

Bloodborne diseases such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV and bacterial infections such as Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococci Aureus (MRSA) and Cellulitis can be transmitted by improper procedures or non-sterile conditions.

Michigan requires each body art facility to be inspected and approved prior to each license issued. The inspections address physical characteristics, sanitary condition, equipment, the proper training of staff, and the policies and procedures of the facility, all aimed at reducing the potential to spread infectious diseases.

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It is also unlawful in Michigan to perform any body art on a minor without first obtaining the expressed written consent from the minor's parent or legal guardian. Michigan's Body Art law imposes both monetary fines and jail time for those who ignore the regulations.

To comply with Michigan law and more importantly to decrease the risk of disease and other complications associated with tattoos or piercings, it is strongly recommended that you utilize a licensed Body Art facility when obtaining these services.

Currently, Dickinson County has three approved Body Art facilities:

- * Deft Tattoo Studio
- * Natural Look
- * Distinktive Tattoos and Piercings

Iron County currently has two approved Body Art facilities:

- * Judgment Day Tattoos
- * Iron River Ink

Performing body art anywhere else than at these facilities in Dickinson and Iron Counties increases your risk of exposure to infectious diseases and is against the law. Body art has become popular and widespread in the last decade, prompting the need for these regulations and precautions.

For additional information, please contact your local Health Department at (906)774-1868 or (906)265-9913.

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