



Renfrew County and District Health Unit
"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, January 22, 2020)

Public Health Investigation of Uninspected Home-Based Tattoo Operation Reveals Possibility of Bloodborne Infection Transmission to Clients

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) advises anyone who received a tattoo from a home-based tattoo operation located on Raglan Street South in Renfrew, Ontario to get tested for bloodborne infections such as hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV), and HIV.

A public health inspector from RCDHU conducted an inspection of the home-based operation after receiving a complaint. The inspection found that the operator was not following proper infection prevention and control procedures for disinfection and storage of the tattoo equipment in accordance with provincial standards.

As a result, there is a risk of exposure to bloodborne infections.

Although, the risk of infection is low, as a precaution, RCDHU is recommending that clients who received a tattoo from the above location undergo testing for HBV, HCV, and HIV through a doctor or nurse practitioner. Call RCDHU at 613-735-8654, extension 555 for assistance if you do not have a health care provider.

At this time, RCDHU does not have any evidence of infections to clients.

RCDHU has closed the home-based tattoo operation as a result of the inspection findings.

RCDHU wants to remind you to go to an **inspected** tattoo artist if you want a tattoo. You can find out who is inspected by going to <https://www.rcdhu.com/inspection-disclosure/> and search for the business, or you can speak with a public health inspector at 613-735-8654, extension 555.

-30 -

For more information:

Melissa Botz, R. Kin
Coordinator, Communications and Emergency Preparedness
Renfrew County and District Health Unit
Tel: 613 735-8654 Ext. 512
Fax: 613-735-3067
media@rcdhu.com
www.rcdhu.com