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## Public Health Advisory

January 20, 2017

For immediate release

### **Home-based tattoo and body piercing operation ordered to close in Nipawin; client follow-up testing recommended**

Kelsey Trail Health Region is advising all individuals who received tattoo and/or body piercing services at a residence in Nipawin to be tested for infectious diseases that can spread through unsanitary tattoo procedures.

Based on a thorough investigation and inspection by KTHR Public Health Officers, it was determined that this particular home-based tattoo and body piercing business operated by Darren Kennaway (also known as Darren T. Langis and Darren T. Smith, located at 406 – 9th Avenue West) did not have proper sterilization or sanitation processes in place. As a result, individuals who received tattoos or body piercings at this location may have been exposed to viruses including Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV.

"To prevent the spread of infection from one person to another it is advisable that disposable equipment should be used in tattooing. If reusable equipment is used, it must be cleaned, disinfected and sterilized according to health standards," said Dr. Mohammad Khan, KTHR Medical Health Officer.

Anyone who received tattoos or body piercings from Darren Kennaway (also known as Darren T. Langis and Darren T. Smith, located at 406 – 9th Avenue West, Nipawin) should call their physician to arrange for simple, confidential testing for these viruses. This testing will determine whether the individual has been infected. Individuals may also call HealthLine at 811 with any questions or concerns.

On January 19, 2017, the KTHR Medical Health Officer ordered Darren Kennaway to cease providing all invasive personal service procedures including tattooing or body piercing in the jurisdiction of Kelsey Trail Health Region. This order remains in effect until information is provided to the office of the Medical Health Officer that indicates the procedures will be carried out in a safe and sanitary manner that prevents the transmission of communicable diseases.

"Public Health Officers are here to provide all of the information and support these businesses need to operate safely. It is the responsibility of all tattoo facility operators to ensure all regulations are met and operations are compliant," stated Dr. Khan.

Anyone who is considering getting a tattoo or body piercing is reminded to confirm that a tattoo or body piercing operation is routinely inspected by Public Health before receiving these services.

For more information, contact:  
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