

## **Web Disclosure of Recreational Water Facilities and Personal Service Settings' Inspection Data**

### Background

Inspection information disclosure incentivizes adoption of best practices and can lead to closer working relationships between operators and MLHU staff. Further, it discourages the public from seeking services from unlicensed personal service setting operators (who will not be on the website) and prevents such operators from making false claims to their clientele that they have been inspected by the MLHU.

Sections 1 and 4 of the Recreational Water Protocol under the OPHS require boards of health to inspect, and establish a procedure for public disclosure of inspection results of, recreational water facilities. Similarly, requirement 14 of the OPHS Infectious Diseases Prevention and Control Standards outlines the Board of Health's obligation to inspect all PSSs annually.

### A New Website for Inspection Information Disclosure

The MLHU is launching a disclosure website for inspection-related information about recreational water facilities (i.e., public pools, public spas) and personal services settings (i.e., hair salons, barbering, manicure-pedicure, tattoo and body-piercing). The inspection information will be provided by the Safe Water and Rabies, and Infectious Disease Control Teams.

This will provide the public with fast and simple access to the results of inspections conducted in the City of London and Middlesex County. Additionally, this disclosure website provides the MLHU with a mechanism to publicly post inspection data of any facility or operation (not otherwise subject to regular inspection) in a timely manner, if a risk to the public exists or an incident has occurred. This functionality will satisfy the upcoming Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's transparent mandatory reporting requirements related to non-routine inspections where an Infection Prevention and Control lapse has been identified.

The web design and function were prepared by Res-IM, the same company behind the new MLHU and DineSafe websites.

### Implementation

In preparation for the launch, five information sessions were held at 50 King St. for owners and operators of pools, spas and PSSs. Over 70 people attended and feedback was unanimously positive; reputable operators view this as supportive of their safe business practices.

The website will be launched in June, 2015. It will initially include tattoo operators' inspection data from January 1, 2014, onwards, as well as recreational water facility inspection data from January 1, 2015, onwards. The disclosure of all other personal services settings' inspection information will commence early in 2016 and will contain all data from 2015.

### Conclusion

The June 2015 launch of an easily-accessible disclosure website for inspection-related information will incentivize adoption of best practices in recreational water facilities and personal service settings, enhance working relationships between operators and MLHU, enable the health unit to meet the imminent Ministry of Health and Long Term Care's mandatory reporting requirements, and empower the public to make informed decisions as to where they obtain services.