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Medical Officer of Health

Public Health
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June 26, 2020

**NOTICE TO BODY RUB PARLOURS AND HOLISTIC CENTRES
PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY ORDER MADE UNDER O. REG 263/20**

Dear Owner/ Operator,

On June 23, 2020, the Province of Ontario amended the Emergency Order for Stage 2 Closures and added requirements to apply to certain businesses in the city of Toronto effective at 12:01 a.m. on June 24, 2020.

Under section 6 of Schedule 2 of the Regulation, **Body Rub Parlours and Holistic Centres are allowed to open** subject to complying with the conditions set out under the “personal care services” category. Section 6 and the applicable conditions to open, state as follows:

Personal care services

6. (1) Personal care services relating to the hair or body, including hair salons and barbershops, manicure and pedicure salons, aesthetician services, piercing services, tanning salons, spas and tattoo studios, may open if they comply with the following conditions:

1. No personal care services that tend to a patron’s face, such as facials, facial hair grooming or removal or makeup applications, may be provided.
2. Persons who provide personal care services in the business must wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
3. Patrons must wear face covering at all times while receiving personal care services.
4. Subject to subsection 19 (2), any locker rooms, change rooms, and showers must be closed, except to the extent they provide access to equipment storage, a washroom or a portion of the business that is used to provide first aid.
5. Any steam rooms, saunas, whirlpools or bathhouses must be closed.

6. Any baths, hot tubs, floating pools or sensory deprivation pods must be closed, unless they are used for a therapeutic purpose prescribed by, or administered by, a regulated health professional.

7. Oxygen bars must be closed.

The Emergency Order was made under the authority of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* in response to the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Currently, the City bylaw, Municipal Code Chapter 545 – Licensing, requires clients to shower before receiving services in Body Rub Parlours and allows for showers and saunas in Holistic Centres. However, the Emergency Order requires that **showers and saunas must be closed**. The City will not be enforcing the requirements for clients to bathe prior to receiving service at Body Rub Parlours.

Toronto Public Health has recently released guidance to support owners/operators on how to operate personal services settings while reducing the risk of staff and clients from contracting COVID-19. The guidance is found at <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/9869-COVID-19-Guidance-for-Personal-Service-Settings.pdf>

If you have any questions about the risks of the spread of COVID-19 or the Province's Emergency Order, please contact Toronto Public Health at 416-338-7600.

Sincerely,



Dr. Michael Finkelstein
Acting Director, Communicable Disease Control
and Associate Medical Officer of Health