

### What am I holding in my hand?

- What you have here is the very first issue of "insignitus" The Kent County Health Department's (KCHD) body art newsletter. The goal of this publication is to keep licensed body art facilities, and body artists in the loop on what is happening regarding Michigan's body art law, upcoming trainings, changes to inspections, trends that Kent County Sanitarians have noticed in local body art facilities and any other pertinent information relating to public health and the local body art industry.

### Scratchers! What's being done?

- Kent County Health Department is actively pursuing all credible reports of illegal tattooing and piercing, and we are in the process of actively building relationships with local law enforcement agencies. We have also created a designated Scratcher complaint form which will be available on line in the coming months. KCHD takes illegal tattooing and piercing very seriously as this poses a serious risk to public health. With that said, we cannot go around kicking down doors based on hearsay, or questionable information. It is for this reason that we have created this complaint form and have designated specific information that we need in order to investigate illegal body art complaints. Collecting information and evidence in a uniform manner is crucial for effective enforcement of illegal body artists. KCHD would encourage anyone with information on illegal body art activity to fill out a complaint form as thoroughly as possible and if possible include any photo evidence that may be pulled from social media or other sources. The more evidence we have, the easier it is for us to initiate appropriate enforcement action that can put these scratchers out of business for good. Our hope is that initially these numbers will increase and then eventually fall off as scratchers start to understand that this activity will not be tolerated. Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of the above referenced complaint form.

### Kent County Health Department Body Art Web page

- We are currently in the process of building a KCHD body art web page. This page will be found through the Health Department's main web site and will include information for body artists, links to state body art documents, sign up for any trainings that are offered, a fillable on line scratcher complaint form and information for the public on the dangers of illegal tattooing and piercing. We anticipate that this website will evolve along with the body art program

### Trends from the last round of inspections.

- As the annual inspection process wraps up, there is typically a few things that tend to stand out as being overlooked by multiple facilities. This can be due to various reasons such as new shop managers, changes to the body art requirements or Body Art Law, new interpretations of the requirements or law, or simply by mistake. Hopefully this newsletter will serve as a place to address these issues as they come up and keep the communication lines between

the Health Department and body art facilities open so that shop managers and body artists can be aware, and ensure they have everything required for the following year's inspection.

The specific areas that were noted during this year's inspections were:

1. The last 3 years of spore testing results are required to be on-site. Section 15.2 of the MDCH Requirements for Body Art Facilities requires that these results be kept for at least 3 years and posted in a conspicuous place in the sterilization room.
2. All individuals, including non-artists must have annual industry specific blood borne pathogens (BBP) training completed. This requirement is in place because regardless of your assigned job duties, there is always a chance to come in contact with blood and other potentially infectious fluids when working in a body art facility. This requirement can be found on page 10 section 7.1 of the MDCH Requirements for Body Art Facilities.
3. A record of each sterilization cycle is required to be logged and kept on file in a log book on site. This can be found on page 21 of the MDCH Requirements for Body Art Facilities section 15.1.6.
4. Starting during the next inspection cycle, only in person, industry specific BBP training will be accepted. Internet based BBP will no longer be acceptable. This requirement can be found on page 10 section 7.1.

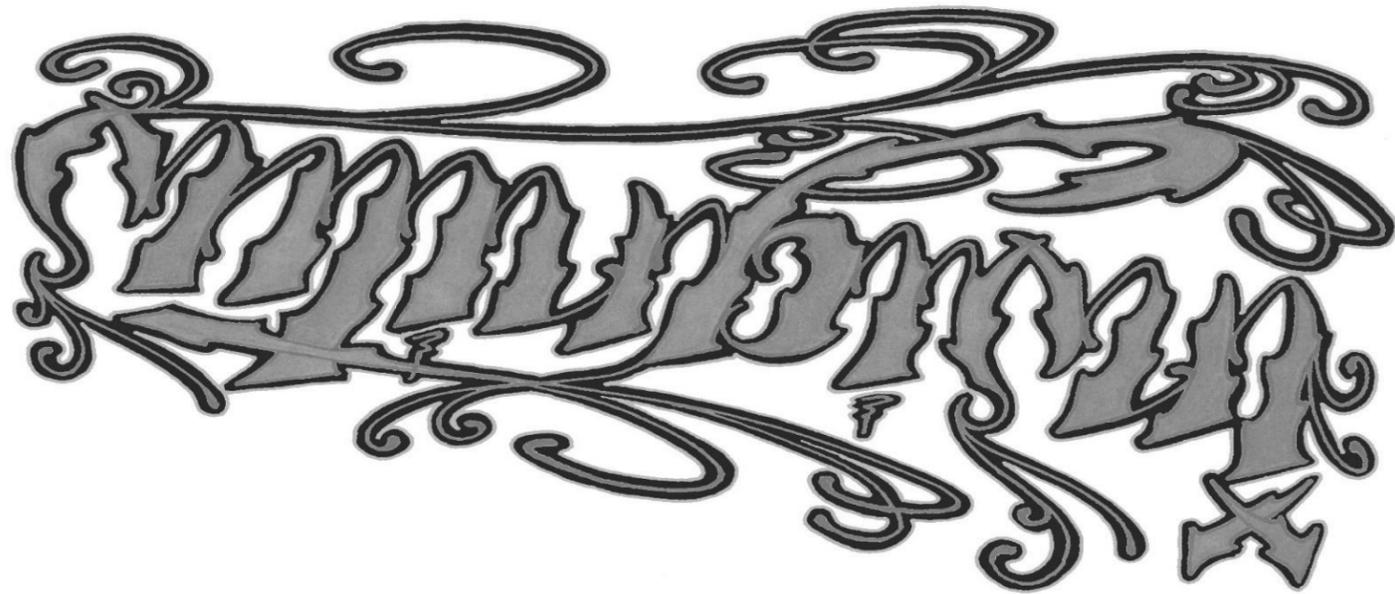
### If I can no longer use internet based BBP training, where can I get trained?

- Starting in the summer of 2015 KCHD will be offering in person, industry specific BBP trainings periodically throughout the year. The cost for this class will be kept as low as possible in order to minimize the financial impact of this requirement on local body artists. Sign up for this class will be found on the KCHD body art web page, and once the details on these trainings have been finalized we will notify all licensed facilities. There are also other body art industry specific BBP instructors that offer in person training in the state of Michigan as well.

\*This newsletter is written for the body art community here in Kent County. Any and all feedback is appreciated. Feel free to email us with your comments/questions.

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This Edition

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