Botox

While many people think of “Botox” (one brand of drug from the botulinum toxin type A) as an exciting cosmetic treatment for wrinkles, it has actually been used for many years to treat certain medical conditions. Its use as a cosmetic treatment was only discovered when people using it to treat facial muscle spasms noticed an improvement in their facial wrinkles.

Botox is a chemical toxin that is produced by the bacterium Clostridium botulinum. Interestingly, this is the same toxin that causes botulism — a food poisoning infection that can result in life-threatening muscle paralysis.

Council’s Health Services has received enquiries about businesses introducing Botox. Botox is a prescription drug and must be administered either by a registered medical practitioner or a registered nurse or by a person under the supervision of a registered medical practitioner or a registered nurse. This process is exempt from the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 and therefore is not registered and/or assessed by Council’s Health Services.

Anyone offering this service should be mindful that since this drug is a prescription drug it should only be ordered on an ‘as needed’ basis and therefore large quantities should not be stored at businesses.


Detergents vs Disinfectants

What is the difference between detergents and disinfectants?

Detergents are used for cleaning because water alone can’t remove oily, organic soiling. Detergents allow the water to interact with oil and grease enabling them to be loosened from a surface and removed during rinsing. The use of detergents therefore facilitates proper cleaning.

Disinfectants on the other hand, destroy the microorganisms present on a surface. Its purpose is not to clean. However, disinfection will not necessarily kill all microorganisms (This can only be achieved by sterilisation eg. autoclave). Importantly, disinfectants should be applied after a detergent is used. This is because disinfectants will not work properly if they are applied to unclean surfaces.

By far the most cost-effective home disinfectant is the commonly used chlorine bleach (a 5% solution of sodium hypochlorite). It is extremely powerful against viruses and bacteria at room temperature, is commonly available and breaks down quickly into harmless components (primarily table salt and oxygen).

Foot baths and spas need to be cleaned thoroughly to prevent the growth and spread of disease-causing microorganisms particularly fungal microorganisms. Microorganisms, commonly referred to as 'germs', grow on moist dirty surfaces.

**How to clean and disinfect a foot spa/bath**

To prevent the spread of infectious diseases, a single-use disposable foot bath/spa liner can be used, otherwise the foot bath/spa must be cleaned and disinfected between each client and regularly (ie. at the end of each day) according to the following directions.

**After each client**
- Drain the water from the foot bath/spa.
- Clean the surfaces of the foot bath/spa with a suitable detergent, warm water and scrubbing brush, then rinse with hot water.
- Disinfect using a chlorine-based disinfectant (bleach) to a concentration of 1000ppm. If using household bleach (that has a concentration of 4% available chlorine (% avCl)) add 25mL of bleach to 1L of warm water. NB. Re-circulating 'air-jet' spas need to be disinfected by circulating clean water and disinfectant according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Then rinse with cold water.
- Dry the foot bath/spa using a clean lint free cloth.

**Regular cleaning**
- If the foot spa components (ie. inlet jets, filter screen) can be removed for cleaning purposes this should be performed regularly (ie. at the end of the day) and cleaned and disinfected according to the above instructions.

*Always consult the manufacturer’s instructions for cleaning and disinfection in conjunction with the Health guidelines for personal care and body art industries, published by the Department of Health.*

**Related information and links**


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**Did you know?**

**Sharps containers – disposal and replacement**

For pick up and replacement of your yellow sharps containers, please contact a commercial waste company that deals with infectious waste in accordance with Environment Protection Authority requirements.

Unfortunately Council does not provide a service for the disposal of this type of commercial waste. For a list of commercial providers refer to ‘Hazardous Waste Removal' in the yellow pages.
Penalty Infringement Notice (PIN)
Fines for unregistered premises

As indicated in our last edition of Health News, Council officers can now issue infringement notices (on-the-spot fine) for certain offences under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008.

An on-the-spot fine may be issued by the Local Council for the failure of a person to register a Personal Care and Body Art Industry premises.

The current fine is $489 for a natural person and $1221 for a body corporate.

This year Council’s Health Services issued a penalty infringement notice to a hairdressing business that failed to renew their registration.

We have reviewed our renewal of registration process for 2012 and will be issuing penalty infringement notices to proprietors who fail to renew their registration by the due date.

Your current Public Health and Wellbeing Act registration expires on 31 December 2011, after which date your premises is no longer registered.

Application forms to renew registration for 2012 have been sent out, so please ensure you submit this form together with the required fee by the due date to avoid a costly fine.

If you have not received your renewal application form please contact the Health Officer without delay on 9457 9965.

Head lice infections (pediculosis) are common and create concern for many families. Information given to people regarding head lice is often conflicting and in some cases incorrect.


Head lice have been around for many thousands of years. Anyone can get head lice and given the chance head lice move from head to head without discrimination.

Head lice only survive on humans. If isolated from the head they die very quickly, usually within 24 hours. They are also fragile insects, easily killed by water temperatures greater than 60°C however, this temperature is too hot for washing hair.

If you do have a client that presents with head lice, you can refer to them to the Department of Health website (below) for further information and assistance.

Treatment is simple, however no treatment kills all of the eggs so treatment must involve two applications seven days apart. (The purpose of the first treatment is to kill all lice, the second treatment is to kill young head lice hatched over the next six days).

Alternatively, the conditioner and comb method can be used every second day until there have been no live head lice found for ten days.

If you have attended to a client and found that they have head lice, you should follow the headlice fact sheet for hairdressers (referred to previously) for cleaning instructions for your instruments/equipment. No disinfection or fumigation of the salon is necessary.

Further Information
Prescribed Accommodation – New Laws for Rooming Houses

New laws aimed at improving the rooming house sector came into effect on 1 September 2011.

Under the new laws:
• Landlords or their agents must advise the local council if they believe a property they manage is an unregistered rooming house;
• Consumer Affairs Victoria inspectors have increased powers to enter non-residential rooms in rooming houses;
• The Director of Consumer Affairs Victoria has greater powers to investigate rooming house issues;
• Penalties for all offences under the Residential Tenancies Act have increased.

Further information regarding running a rooming house can be found in:-
• Rooming houses: a guide for residents and operators at http://www.consumer.vic.gov.au/CA256902000FE154/Lookup/CAV_Publications_Renting/$file/rooming_houses_a_guide_for_residents_and_operators.pdf; and

The Victorian Government is also currently considering further minimum standards for rooming houses but these are not yet law.

Change over of towels on beds

As all of you would be aware, as the proprietor of a registered premises (ie. a hairdresser, beauty premises, body piercing business, tattooist etc), you are responsible for ensuring your premises is kept in a clean, sanitary and hygienic condition.

When it comes to surfaces, if a client comes into contact with the surface (eg. the bed) either the surface must be cleaned using warm water with a suitable detergent and dried, or if towels are being used, these need to be removed after each client and washed in hot water with detergent and dried.

This is a simple process but is essential in ensuring infections are not passed on from one client to the next.