
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1, 2015

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Kent County Health Department Shuts Down Suspected Illegal Tattoo Operation Free HIV Testing Offered for Former Clients

GRAND RAPIDS – The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) will not allow alleged unlicensed body arts establishment to continue at 456 Leonard Street NW in Grand Rapids. Today, in cooperation with the Grand Rapids Police Department, KCHD staff presented its second cease and desist letter to an unidentified person believed to be an employee of the operation and took the additional step of placing a placard on the building notifying the public of the action. Additional legal action is pending investigation.

“The community needs to know that the health department has not approved this facility for body art activity,” says Adam London, Administrative Health Officer at KCHD. “This facility has not been inspected for hygiene and sanitary practices by our trained sanitarians. The Kent County Health Department has no way of knowing what conditions and practices exist inside unlicensed establishments.”

For that reason the Kent County Health Department is offering FREE confidential HIV testing for anyone who has had body art performed at ANY unlicensed body art operation. If you would like to schedule an appointment for confidential testing, please call 632-7171.

“For some individuals we may also recommend free testing for other blood borne pathogens such as Hepatitis C. Those decisions would be based upon individual risk factors that would be better identified during a confidential conversation with a health care professional here at the Kent County Health Department,” said London.

KCHD encourages anyone who has information about this or any other unlicensed body arts operation to call 632-7100 or file an online complaint form (available by clicking [HERE](#).)

The Kent County Health Department wishes to thank the Grand Rapids Police Department for its cooperation with this investigation.

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 265 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

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