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## Day at the spa

Thia Massaro enjoys her day at A Spa For You while having a pedicure by Crystal White and a hand massage by St. Patrick High School co-op student Jessica Ross on Friday. Spa owner Erika Maki shows Massaro an array of colourful nail polishes. The Thunder Bay District Health

Unit will conduct inspections this month of places that offer hair-styling, barbering, manicures, pedicures, waxing, electrolysis, tattooing and piercing to emphasize the importance of infection prevention. For story, see page A3.

# Inspectors aim to stop infections, work injuries

BY BRYAN MEADOWS  
NORTHWEST BUREAU

Thunder Bay district public health inspectors will be conducting an inspection blitz this month of personal service settings to raise awareness of the importance of preventing infections.

The goal is to protect the public from the risk of accidental infections while receiving personal services, the Thunder Bay District Health Unit said Friday in a news release.

Personal service settings include businesses that offer hair-styling, barbering, manicures, pedicures, waxing, electrolysis, tattooing and piercing.

The health unit is mandated to inspect these types of businesses once a year to ensure they comply with infection prevention control guidelines set out by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care.

During the blitz, inspectors will focus on preventing the spread of infections by checking to make sure: proper instrument cleaning, disinfecting and storage practices are in place; single-use instruments are used on one client and then thrown away; proper hand-washing facilities and procedures are in place; a no double-dipping policy is in place for waxing; bio-hazardous sharps containers are on-site and used to get rid of all needles and blades after they are used; and that accurate client records for skin-invasive procedures or accidental exposures are kept and maintained.

In addition, the health unit is hosting a Pamper Yourself, Pretty-Make Sure It's Safe Campaign today at the Thunder Bay Business Women's Expo.

The campaign is aimed at ensuring the public is aware of infection control practices required by operators of personal service settings, the health unit says.

East of Thunder Bay, the Northwestern Health Unit takes a more random approach to inspection of personal services.

Donna Stanley, manager of the health unit's infectious disease control program, said inspectors have a certain number of businesses they check out per year.

"It's an ongoing thing, we don't have a specific time of year" when officials go in and conduct an inspection. Public health inspectors go in at random times to ensure businesses are following the guidelines, she said.

Meanwhile, the Thunder Bay area health unit is not the only agency planning an inspection blitz this month.

The Ministry of Labour will be targetting high-risk construction trades in order to protect workers from preventable workplace injuries.

Ministry inspectors will visit construction projects employing workers in high-rise formwork, low-rise formwork and masonry, siding and built-up roofing work.

They will help ensure that work areas are safe from hazards that cause dangerous slips, trips or falls; and workers are using fall protection systems properly and equipment such as ladders, platforms and scaffolds.

This blitz will be in addition to regular inspections already undertaken by the ministry.

In 2010, six workers died and 159 workers were seriously injured in the five targeted trades as a result of falls. Of those injured, nearly half were young workers.