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June 29, 2020

From the Office of Dr. Joyce Lock, Medical Officer of Health, Southwestern Public Health

Infection Prevention and Control Lapse at Aylmer Barber Shop

On June 16, 2020, a complaint-based inspection was conducted at the **Mario Chirico Barber Shop** located at **29 King Street, Aylmer ON** by Southwestern Public Health (SWPH). Non-compliance with infection prevention and control practices observed during the inspection included:

- Razor blades designed to be single-use and disposable were used on multiple clients. This practice has occurred for 22 years, the length of time the shop has been open. The operator has no record of clients that the razor or razors were used on.
- Re-usable instruments were not properly cleaned and disinfected between clients.

Based on these findings, Public Health Inspectors provided instruction and education on instrument cleaning and disinfecting and ordered the operator to stop using a razor blade for the shaving of the face and neck.

Shaving using a razor on multiple people is associated with bacterial infection (e.g., skin infections caused by *Serratia marcescens*) and viral infections. Studies have shown used razor blades may be contaminated with hepatitis B. We advise consideration of testing for blood-borne infections (BBI).

A media release will be issued on June 29 to inform all clients who received a shave or the use of the blade on the neck area, over the 22 years this shop has operated, to speak to their primary care provider about BBI testing. **On the SWPH website (www.swpublichealth.ca/barbershop), clients can access a lab requisition pre-populated for the testing of:**

- Hepatitis B acute infection
- Hepatitis B immune status
- Hepatitis C screen
- HIV screen

Inform your patients to take this lab requisition to the lab of their choice. Advise patients to add your name, as their primary **care provider, as the ordering physician**. Additionally, clients may contact SPWH for any questions they may have by calling 1-800-922-0096 x 9.

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