

Peter L. Beilenson, M.D., M.P.H., Health Officer

Howard County Seeks to Ban Indoor Tanning for Youth Under 18

Press Conference
September 22, 2009
1:30pm

Press Packet



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Columbia, MD 21046

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HOWARD COUNTY SEEKS TO BAN INDOOR TANNING FOR YOUTH UNDER 18

Howard County will become one of the first communities in America to propose a complete ban on the use of indoor tanning beds by minors.

“Tanning Beds” are widely suspected of causing melanoma, a deadly type of skin cancer. County Executive Kenneth Ulman and Health Officer Dr. Peter Beilenson will announce that they are sending proposed regulations to the Howard County Board of Health for formal consideration.

Mr. Ulman and Dr. Beilenson will hold a briefing on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at 1:30 PM to explain the proposed regulations.

Former Miss Maryland (2006) Brittany Lietz, who contracted skin cancer from indoor tanning beds, will speak at the briefing. In addition, noted dermatologists and other county leaders will be in attendance.

- WHO:** Howard County Health Leaders, Former Miss Maryland, Noted Physicians
- WHAT:** Proposed regulations to prevent minors from getting skin cancer from indoor tanning booths
- WHEN:** Tuesday, September 22 at 1:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** The Howard County Health Department
7178 Columbia Gateway Drive
Columbia, Maryland 21046
- WHY:** The danger to minors of contracting cancer from ultraviolet tanning is too great to allow in light of medical evidence proving cause and effect.

Summary of Proposed Tanning Regulations

On September 22, 2009, the Health Officer will propose that the Howard County Board of Health formally begin proceedings to review and potentially promulgate regulations that would govern the operation of a tanning facility in Howard County.

What will this regulation do?

- Prohibits minors (those under 18 years of age) from using tanning devices in Howard County unless the minor has a prescription from a licensed physician that indicates the nature of the medical condition requiring the treatment, the number of visits allowed, and the time of exposure for each visit.
- Requires tanning facility personnel to check photo-ID to ensure the customer is not a minor.
- Regulates the sanitation and hygiene practices of tanning facilities to protect adult customers.
- Requires customers to sign a warning statement before being allowed to use a tanning device.
- Requires warning signs to be posted in conspicuous areas.
- Requires tanning facility personnel to complete an industry approved training that includes topics such as the operation and maintenance of equipment and safety aids; need and use of protective eyewear; skin typing; identification of potential photosensitizing drugs and other factors used to determine a customer's exposure time.
- Permits the Health Officer to file a complaint with the Office of Consumer Affairs in response to certain false or misleading advertising and promotions.
- Provides that a person may file a complaint with the Health Officer if they think a tanning facility isn't following the rules.
- Requires tanning facilities to register their business with the Health Officer each year.

What's next in the Board of Health process?

- If the Board of Health agrees to formally begin proceedings at its meeting on September 22nd, it will set a public hearing date and formal comment period to allow for public input.
- Check the Howard County Health Department's website for more information and updates.
www.hchealth.org

Who Uses Tanning Beds?

- On an average day, more than **1 million** Americans tan in tanning salons.
- The majority (**70%**) of tanning bed users are young women between 16 and 29 years of age.
- Close to **40%** of teenage girls report having used a tanning bed with the past 12 months.

What are the Health Risks of Tanning Beds?

- The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified tanning beds as **cancer-causing agents**.
- Using a tanning bed before age 35 increases your risk of developing skin cancer by **75%**.
- Exposure to UV radiation during indoor tanning increases the risk of melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancers, especially when a user is exposed at an early age.
- The World Health Organization recommends the use of tanning beds to be restricted by anyone under the age of 18.

Is Skin Cancer Common?

- Skin cancer is the **most common of all types of cancer** and accounts for almost half of all cancers in the U.S.
- There are three types of skin cancer: melanoma, squamous cell, and basal cell. Squamous and basal cell cancers are often called non-melanoma skin cancers.
- Melanoma – the more serious and aggressive type of skin cancer – is on the rise in the U.S. and in Maryland. The rate of new melanoma cases in the state is 18 per every 100,000 people. Howard County's incidence rate is similar to the state, at 21 per 100,000.
- The American Cancer Society predicts that in 2009, there will be more than 11,000 deaths from skin cancer.

State and Local Laws on Indoor Tanning

In 2009 tanning beds were classified as cancer-causing agents by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), an agency of the World Health Organization (WHO). This fact sheet provides an overview of state and local laws related to indoor tanning as well as information on current Maryland law restricting minors' access to tanning beds.

What types of laws have states passed on indoor tanning?

- At least 29 states and 4 counties regulate the use of tanning beds by minors.
- The majority of regulations require parental consent for the teen to get into a tanning bed.
- There is great variation in the parental consent laws. Some require the parent/guardian to sign the consent in front of a tanning facility owner/operator. Others require the parent to accompany the teen to the tanning session. For some, consent is valid for a specific number of tanning sessions or for a specific period of time (e.g. 1 calendar year).
- Some regulations prohibit tanning by younger minors unless a physician or health professional considers it to be medically necessary.

Does anyone ban indoor tanning by minors?

- In June 2009, the Governor of Texas signed a bill into law that prohibits the use of indoor tanning facilities by individuals under the age of 16.5 years of age.
- In August 2009, legislators from Suffolk County in New York introduced a bill that would ban tanning bed use until the age of 18. This bill is expected to be voted on sometime this fall.

What is the Maryland law on indoor tanning by minors?

- On October 1, 2008, a new Maryland law took effect requiring minors to obtain parental consent in order to use a tanning bed.
- Under this law, a parent/guardian must give parental written consent in the presence of tanning facility owner, employee or operator in order for a minor to use tanning devices. A tanning facility owner, employee, or operator must check identification to verify the age of the individual before allowing the minor to get into a tanning bed.
- Maryland counties are allowed to enact stricter laws and regulations.

Are these laws effective?

- A recent study by American Cancer Society researchers found that laws restricting minors' access to tanning beds did not have any impact on teen's use of tanning beds.
- More than 1 million people use a tanning bed each day in the U.S. Close to 40% of teenage girls report having used a tanning bed within the past 12 months.
- Preventing youth access to tanning facilities is recommended by the American Academy of Dermatology and the World Health Organization.



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Peter L. Beilenson, M.D., M.P.H., Health Officer

Board of Health Meeting September 22, 2009

MEETING TIME: 6:00 PM

- The Howard County Board of Health will convene at 6pm to 6:30pm for a short regular meeting. During this meeting, it will begin formal review of tanning facility regulations proposed by the Health Officer.
- At 6:30 PM, it will reconvene as the Board of Health Appeals Board to continue its hearing on NOV – 15157 Players Way.

MEETING LOCATION: Howard County Government’s Temporary Offices
8930 Stanford Blvd.
Columbia, MD 21045

MEETING ROOM: Ellicott II Hearing Room

DIRECTIONS to 8930 Stanford Blvd.

From Ellicott City: Take US Route 29 South towards Columbia Take Exit 20A – MD Rt. 175 East towards LAUREL Take a RIGHT onto S. Dobbin Rd. Take a LEFT onto Stanford Blvd. Building and parking lot will be on your immediate LEFT.	From points South: Take US 29 North towards Baltimore Take Exit 20A – MD Rt. 175 East towards LAUREL Take a RIGHT onto S. Dobbin Rd. Take a LEFT onto Stanford Blvd. Building and parking lot will be on your immediate LEFT.
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For further information, please call 410-313-2022.