

Capacity Assessment Key Findings

Tanning Establishments

In the fall of 2022, the Office of Local and Regional Health conducted a Capacity Assessment of local health departments in Massachusetts to evaluate local public health's current ability to provide basic public health services based on their available resources, including staffing levels, funding, and training. The first-ever Massachusetts Local Public Health Performance Standards, which defined basic levels of services and workforce credentials and training, framed the assessment. As part of this assessment, a qualitative review of documentation submitted by municipalities was conducted, focusing on various subject areas to evaluate the implementation of crucial public health services.

The tanning establishment documentation included inspections for one tanning establishment from 2018, 2019, and 2021.



1

CONSISTENCY AMONG TANNING ESTABLISHMENT INSPECTIONS

While these may be conducted less frequently than other types of inspections, inspectors must still be aware of essential components.

- What was checked from inspection to inspection was often inconsistent from one municipality to another.
- Some elements that were not consistently checked or documented during inspections include the control of the timers being with the operator and not the user, checking bulb compatibility in the machine, and staff training compliance.
- There should be, at minimum, two inspections per year (every six months) for every tanning establishment.



2

ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Following document review, there is an opportunity for additional technical training among inspectors based on what was determined to be minimum requirements for tanning establishment inspections (outlined in the following bullet points).

- Adequately addressing items concerning the prohibition of minors under 18 from participating in tanning sessions.
- Adequate attention to ensuring proper information is provided to customers, warning them about the dangers of tanning.
- Ensuring that all required postings are displayed.
- Attention to verifying that tanning devices meet the quality standards.
- Adequately addressing issues related to the proper operation and supervision of timers by on-site staff.
- Compliance with the regulation requires two inspections per year.
- Properly addressing issues that may pose risks to individuals.
- Addressing issues that may contribute to radiation exposure or illness.
- Adequate attention to items related to the competencies of tanning establishment workers.
- The inspection form used is approved and sufficient.
- Critical fields in the inspection report are complete.
- Follow-up actions, where necessary, are completed with the necessary information.
- Reinspection processes are included and sufficiently conducted.



Effective tanning establishment documentation should encompass applications and permits, vital information about the types of devices utilized, operators' training and credentialing information, and Board of Health permissions.

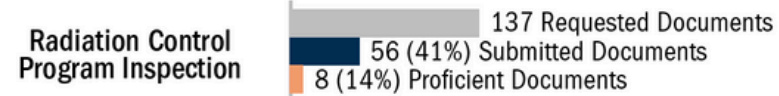
Tanning Establishments

Qualitative Findings

The table below outlines the reasons tanning establishment documentation did not meet the proficiency standard. document did not meet the proficiency standard. **The most frequently selected determinations are bolded in red and ordered by frequency from greatest to least.**

The figure to the right presents the percentage of submitted documents and their proficiency for the tanning establishment category. The most significant issue overall was that two inspections per year were not submitted (regulation requires inspection to occur every six months).

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION RESULTS



■ Number of Requested Documents ■ Number of Submitted Documents (%) ■ Number of Proficient Documents (%)

TANNING ESTABLISHMENT 2018/19/21 DOCUMENTS

EVALUATION CRITERIA

2 inspections per year were not submitted (regulation requires inspection to occur every 6 months) but the 1 inspection that was submitted meets the quality standards

Follow-up action not completed or documented

Reinspection not completed or documented

Conditions that may put individuals at risk not properly addressed

Conditions that may contribute to radiation exposure/illness not properly addressed

Items relating to ensuring proper information is provided to customers warning them of the dangers of tanning not properly addressed

Items relating to ensuring tanning devices meet the quality standards not properly addressed