Licensing Board for the City of Boston

One City Hall Square, Room 809, Boston, Massachusetts 02201 617-635-4170 Fax: 617-635-4742

Commissioners:
Nicole Murati Ferrer, Chairwoman
Suzanne Iannella
Milton Wright
Executive Secretary:
Jean M. Lorizio

TO ALL LICENSEES
9/25/13

As you may know, over the past few months there have been an increase of hospital visits for drug overdoses across the northeast some of which have resulted in deaths. Here in Boston, we recently experienced the death of a young girl because of an overdose of the commonly named drug Molly. Molly is not the only drug being taken and is not the only one causing serious and sometimes lethal injuries. As such, in an effort to maintain all of your patrons and staff safe, we ask for your cooperation and assistance and recommend implementing the following measures.

1. Have a strict policy of no drug use on your premises, and enforce that policy. This policy should apply to both staff and patrons and should be posted throughout the premises.
2. Post signs in areas such as bathrooms, hallways, bars and near the dance floor listing the types of signs which indicate someone is in distress and reminding people to call 911.
3. Monitor the bathrooms in intervals of 10 minutes and/or post an attendant in each bathroom.
4. Monitor the crowds for users, sellers and/or persons in distress.
5. Implement reasonable procedures to ensure the safety of your staff and patrons.
6. Implement procedures to follow when someone is found in distress, and train all your staff, including but not limited to, servers, bar backs, busboys, bartenders and security, on that procedure.
7. Train your entire staff, including but not limited to, servers, bar backs, busboys, bartenders and security, on how to identify a person in distress, including those in distress because of overconsumption of legal drugs like alcohol and illegal drugs like non-prescribed drugs, ecstasy, LSDs and Molly.
8. Call 911 as soon as it is identified that a person is in distress and in need of assistance. Do not try to solve the issue on your own. Do not fail to call for assistance because the person tells you not to do so.
9. Take the person affected to an area that is cool and free of crowds, and provide assistance to that person until such time as the medical responders, police or fire arrive.

Please note that the Boston Public Health Commission is offering to train any licensee and its staff as to how to identify when someone is in distress and the proper assistance to provide based on the type of distress observed. This training is free of charge and we strongly encourage you to take advantage of it. To obtain more information on the training or more information as to brochures and signs you can obtain to post, please contact Devin Larkin at 617-534-9385 or dlarkin@bphc.org. Enclosed herewith, you will also find literature from the BPH regarding environmental strategies to reduce drug use.

In addition, Lieutenant Detective Robert Merner of the Boston Police Drug Control Unit has volunteered his staff to assist any licensee with any issue regarding the sale, sharing, possessing and/or ingesting of drugs inside or around the premises. You may contact him directly at 617-594-3230 or MernerR.bpd@cityofboston.gov.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us, Public Health or the Police Department. We thank you for your cooperation in maintaining everyone as safe as possible.

Very truly yours,

Nicole Murati Ferrer

BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIES TO REDUCE DRUG USE

Outside the Club

- Train staff on recognizing signs of drug use and impairment.
- Develop clear, written policies for staff about patrons that cannot be admitted to the club. Do not admit patrons who are drug or alcohol impaired.
- Consider restricting patrons from entering the club with bags.
- Monitor the exterior of the venue routinely. Check for signs of drug use/ sale around club property.
- Provide additional security for large events.

Inside the Club

- Perform a walk-through of the club. Remove physical barriers that block the view of patron movement or allow for unsupervised activity.
- Check bathrooms at 10 minute intervals. For large events, station an attendant in the bathrooms.
- Develop clear, written policies for removal of problem patrons (patrons buying, selling, using drugs).
- Develop clear, written policies on not serving alcohol to impaired patrons.
- Develop ongoing staff training to ensure all staff are capable of detecting drug-impaired patrons and intervening safely and effectively.
- Provide staff training to recognize and respond to drug-related emergencies.
- Provide signage about club policies.
- Provide signage for signs and symptoms of overdose, including instructions for patrons to call 9-1-1 in an emergency.

For more information, please contact
Devin Larkin at BPHC: 617-534-9385 or dlarkin@bphc.org.