

LIVE WELL



WORK WELL

FDA Aims to Ban Minors from Tanning Beds

Due to concerns about the rising number of skin cancer cases, in December 2015, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) proposed rules that would ban anyone under the age of 18 from using indoor tanning beds.

In winter, it can be tempting to jump into a tanning bed for some added color. However, tanning beds give off radiation that is 10 to 15 times stronger than the sun.

Tanning beds are linked to a number of health risks, including melanoma, the most dangerous form of skin cancer. Health risks increase each time someone tans; therefore, using tanning beds at young age can be especially harmful.

The proposed rule would also require **all** customers to sign a risk acknowledgement form before their first tanning session and every six months thereafter stating they're aware of the health risks.

The FDA will take comments from the public on the proposal for 90 days. If approved, violators could be subject to penalties, tanning bed confiscation and legal action.

This article is intended for informational purposes only and is not intended to be exhaustive, nor should any discussion or opinions be construed as professional advice. Readers should contact a health professional for appropriate advice.

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Health and wellness tips for your work and life—
brought to you by Local 103, I.B.E.W. Health
Benefit Plan.

The Importance of Good Posture

Posture is something that most people don't think twice about. We tend to sit or stand in whatever way feels the most comfortable at the time. However, poor posture can wreak havoc on a person's body, causing back and neck pain, muscle fatigue, digestive issues and even breathing problems.

Many Americans work at jobs where they spend most of their days sitting in front of computers. They then often go home and continue to sit after a long day at work. In the winter, individuals may spend even more time sitting when temperatures drop and outdoor activity becomes more difficult.

Spending many hours a day sitting and looking at a computer or a phone can lead to tight muscles in the back of the neck and upper back, which places stress on your bones and joints. Slouching or sitting in a scrunched position can also compress your abdomen and interfere with normal digestion.

To avoid the dangers associated with poor posture while sitting, make sure your computer monitor is at eye level to avoid straining your neck by constantly looking down. In addition, avoid holding a phone on your shoulder throughout the day. Instead, use a hands-free device like a headset or one with Bluetooth capabilities. Taking the time to stretch and strengthen core muscles can also help correct muscular imbalances.

Poor posture is something that affects you more over time. By taking steps now to be conscious of your posture, you can decrease your chances of developing joint pain and improve your overall well-being.



LOCAL 103, I.B.E.W.
HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN



Fudgy Fruit

Celebrate Valentine's Day this year with this easy, healthy dessert recipe.

- 6 Tbsp. semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 2 large bananas, peeled and quartered
- 8 large strawberries
- ¼ cup unsalted peanuts, chopped

Directions

Place chocolate chips in a small microwave safe bowl. Heat on high for 10 seconds and stir. Repeat until chocolate is melted, about 30 seconds.

Place fruit on a small tray covered with a piece of waxed paper. Use a spoon to drizzle the melted chocolate on top of the fruit.

Sprinkle the fruit with chopped nuts. Cover the fruit and place in the refrigerator for 10 minutes or until the chocolate hardens. Serve chilled.

Makes: 4 servings

Nutritional Information (per serving)

Total Calories	151
Total Fat	10 g
Protein	3 g
Carbohydrates	24 g
Dietary Fiber	4 g
Saturated Fat	2 g
Sodium	2 g

*Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.

Source: USDA



Preventing Foodborne Illnesses

Each year, approximately 1 in 6 Americans get sick from food poisoning. It's not uncommon to hear about food being recalled or a new foodborne illness outbreak daily. Most people recover without any long-lasting effects; however, those who are pregnant, the elderly or those with chronic conditions are more at risk for developing complications.

Prevent foodborne illness at your home by being conscious of food safety guidelines. For instance, avoid eating raw or spoiled meats and eggs by checking expiration dates before purchasing and preparing food. Wash your hands, cutting boards and knives with antibacterial soap and hot water after handling raw meat, seafood or eggs. Never serve meat on the same plate it was placed on when it was raw. Use a food thermometer to make sure meat is cooked to a safe temperature.

In addition, avoid thawing food at room temperature; instead, defrost foods in the refrigerator and do not refreeze food once it's been fully thawed. Wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly before eating, especially those that will not be cooked (like fresh apples or pears) in order to prevent foodborne illness.

Food Poisoning Prevention Tips



Wash hands before and after preparing food.

Cook chicken and turkey to a temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit.



Cook ground beef, steaks and roasts to a temperature of 160 degrees Fahrenheit.

Read all FDA recalls and alerts about contaminated food.



Avoid unpasteurized milk or juices.