

Hair Salons and Barber Shops

Blood-borne infections, such as HIV, Hepatitis B and C, can be acquired and transmitted at hair salons and barbershops. Infection prevention and control precautions must be followed to protect both personal service workers and clients.

You do not have to see blood or bodily fluids on the instruments for an infection to occur.

The following is in addition to general operational requirements for personal services settings.

Infection Prevention and Control Requirements:

- Hands must be washed:
 - before and after each client,
 - before and after wearing gloves, and
 - in between breaks in service.
- Scissors, hair clippers and re-usable straight blades for cutting hair should be cleaned and disinfected using a low level disinfectant between clients.
- Clippers, trimmers, edgers and scissors that may accidentally nick or break the skin must be cleaned and disinfected with an intermediate to high level disinfectant.
- Single use, disposable blades used for shaving must be discarded in an approved sharps container immediately after use.
- Straight razors used for shaving must be single use or cleaned and **sterilized** in an autoclave between clients.
- Styptic pencils **must not** be used on clients. Use styptic in powder or liquid form with a disposable applicator.
- Crochet hooks used for cap highlights must be cleaned and disinfected with an intermediate to high level disinfectant.
- Keep client and accidental blood and body fluids exposure records for a minimum of one year.
- Hepatitis B vaccination is strongly recommended for personal service workers.
- Reuseable capes must be used with single-use neck strips or towels that are laundered after each client.

Blood and Body Fluid Exposure

- Document all client and operator exposure to blood and body fluid.
- Keep client records and accidental blood and body fluid exposure records on site for one year.
- Hepatitis B vaccination for staff is strongly recommended.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR MORE INFORMATION.