

Fact Sheet

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 body fluids on the instruments for an infection to occur.

The following information is a supplement to general operational requirements for personal service establishments.

Infection Prevention and Control Requirements

- Hands must be washed:
 - before and after each client
 - before and after wearing gloves, and
 - between breaks in service
- Scissors, hair clippers and re-usable straight blades for cutting hair should be cleaned and low level disinfected between clients.
- Clippers, trimmers, edgers and scissors that may accidentally nick or break the skin must be cleaned and intermediate to high level disinfected
- 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 intermediate to high level disinfected.
- Reusable capes must be used with single use neck strips or towels that are laundered after each client.

Blood and Body Fluids Exposure

- Document all client and operator exposure to blood and body fluids.
- Keep client records and accidental blood and body fluids exposure records on site for one year and on file for 5 years.
- Hepatitis B vaccination for staff is strongly recommended.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROTECTION OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION