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