

# Body and Beauty Art

## Hairdressing & Barbering

### What is the Health Risk?

You and your clients are at risk of being exposed to HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C or other microorganisms such as bacteria or fungi.

**You do not have to see blood or body fluids on equipment or surfaces for an infection to occur.**

### Before you begin a service:

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with liquid soap under warm running water and then dry with disposable paper towel; see the **Handwashing poster**.
- Apply a single use, disposable neck strip or newly laundered towel to client's neck.

### After you have finished a service:

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with liquid soap under warm running water and then dry with disposable paper towel; see the **Handwashing poster**.
- Remove all visible hair, oils and chemical products from the hair clippers and trimmers. Then disinfect with an intermediate level disinfectant, such as 70% isopropyl alcohol. An acceptable disinfectant for hair clippers should clearly state on the label that it is effective in destroying *Mycobacteria or Tuberculosis*. Follow the instructions on the label.
- Clean\* and then disinfect all combs in a low level disinfectant allowing for the appropriate contact time. Do not store combs in disinfectant solution. Adhere to manufacturer instructions.
- Dispose of all single use razor blades between each client. Dispose sharps in an approved puncture resistant sharps container. Do not overfill, empty, or touch contents of a sharps container. Do not discard sharps into the municipal garbage.
- Clean\* and then disinfect the reusable straight blade razor handle and cradle using an intermediate level disinfectant, such as 70% isopropyl alcohol. Allow the instrument to soak for 10 minutes between each client.
- Clean\* and then disinfect the crochet hook used for highlighting with an intermediate level disinfectant. Allow the crochet hook to soak in the disinfectant for 10 minutes.
- Launder used towels, sheets and linen after each client and store in a clean drawer or container with a lid to prevent contamination.
- Clean\* and then disinfect head rests, worktables and chairs daily (at a minimum) using a low level disinfectant, such as 1 tsp of bleach with 10 cups of water. Allow the disinfectant to contact surface for 10 minutes.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions regarding the proper use of chemicals and the contact time required for the disinfectant to be effective (most disinfectants require a minimum 10 minute contact time).
- Clean\* and then disinfect scissors, if the skin has been nicked, with an intermediate to high level disinfectant. Remember to record the incident.
- Keep accidental blood exposure records on site for a minimum of one year and on file for five years.

\*See the **General and Operational Requirements fact sheet for detailed cleaning and disinfecting steps**.

Source: The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Infection Prevention and Control Best Practices for Personal Services Settings, January, 2009.  
November 2012