

# Body and Beauty Art

## Waxing/Hair Removal

### 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**.
- Wash your hands even if you intend to wear gloves.
- Examine the client's skin or body to ensure it is free from any cuts, wounds, rashes or visible infections around the area you will be working on.

### 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, even if gloves were worn during the service.
- Discard individual cartridges used to roll wax onto the skin after **each** client. Alternately, wax may be rolled on to a single use disposable strip so that the roll on applicator does not directly contact the client's skin.
- Discard all single use, disposable items, such as threads and applicator strips after each client.
- Clean\* and then disinfect instruments/equipment, such as tweezers, scissors and eyebrow brushes, using an intermediate level disinfectant, such as 70% isopropyl alcohol. Soak the instruments in the disinfectant for 10 minutes.
- Store all cleaned and disinfected items in a clean drawer or container with a lid to prevent contamination.
- Clean\* and then disinfect work surfaces using a low-level disinfectant, such as 1 tsp bleach with 10 cups of water, allowing it to contact the surface for 10 minutes.

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

### Additional Notes:

- Heated wax is not hot enough to kill harmful microorganisms; new, single use, disposable spatulas must be used when dispensing wax.
- Do not "double dip" as this can cause infections.
- Do not reuse or recycle waxing and sugaring products used during the hair removal process.
- Do not use tweezers and reusable lancets to remove ingrown hairs; use sterile, needles/lancets to expose ingrown hairs.
- **Never** reuse needles/lancets even on the same client.

Source: The Ministry of Health and long Term Care, Infection Prevention and control Best Practices for Personal Services Settings, January 2009.

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