



## Guidance for Body Art Facilities to operate as part of Responsible RestartOhio

May 14, 2020

The Ohio Governor has announced body art facilities can begin operation on May 15, 2020. Body Art Facilities can operate in a manner to protect employees and customers from COVID-19. The goal is to follow strict health, cleaning, and social protocols so the spread of COVID-19 can be slowed and we, together, protect ourselves and others from disease.

The Ohio Governor's office has created [Sector Specific Operating Requirements](#) for businesses to be eligible to be open.

Read and follow these **Mandatory** and **Recommended Best Practices** closely:

### [Responsible RestartOhio – Hair Salons, Day Spas, Nail Salons, Barbershops, Tanning Facilities, Tattoo Services and Body Piercings](#)

- **Important note for piercers:** Until further notice: Both oral and nose piercings are prohibited at this juncture given the risk of respiratory droplet transmission

To provide further mandatory and best practices guidance for body art facilities, the below document is broken out in 9 categories: Masks; Social Distancing; Employee Health; Other Recommended Best Practices; National Guidance Documents; Print Resources; Building Water Systems

*This document is accurate as of 5/14/2020 and will be updated as often as necessary to ensure you are being provided the most current best practices.*

---

## MASKS / FACE COVERINGS

Mandatory:

- Businesses must allow all customers, patrons, visitors, contractors, vendors and similar individuals to use facial coverings, except for specifically documented legal, life, health or safety considerations and limited documented security considerations.
- Businesses must **require** all employees to wear facial coverings (with exceptions.)

Guidance / Best Practice:

- Provide surgical masks or washable face coverings to employees and encourage employees to properly care for them.
  - CDC guidelines on [Use of Cloth Face Coverings](#)
  - Employees should wear a new, clean surgical mask or new, clean cloth face covering between each client.
- It is Recommended Best Practice to **consider** having customers wear face coverings at all times. Encourage customers to bring their own mask or provide one for them.
- Follow instructions for PPE carefully to ensure safe practices.
  - CDC guidelines for [Using Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#)
- N95 Respirators are not recommended for body art facilities. If you chose to use or provide an N95 Respirator, become familiar with usage guidelines.
  - CDC guidelines for [Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators](#).
  - Note – N95, surgical masks, and cloth masks cannot be sterilized in a facility's autoclave.

---

## SOCIAL DISTANCING

Mandatory:

- Maintain accurate appointment and walk-in records including date and time of service, name of client, and contact information to assist in contact tracing
- Only clients will be allowed in the establishment for their service; unless client must be accompanied by a caregiver
- Establish maximum capacity
- Specify hours for at-risk populations (e.g. elderly)
- Post social distancing signage and disinfect high-contact surfaces hourly
- Place hand sanitizers in high-contact locations
- Clean high-touch items after each use
- Clean merchandise before stocking if possible
- Clean chairs and equipment before and after each use
- Discard magazines and other non-essential items in the waiting area that cannot be disinfected

Guidance / Best Practice:

- Arrange furniture in a manner that seats customers, guests, and employees 6' apart by removing seats or marking seats as "unavailable."
  - *Members of the same household do not need to maintain social distance.*
- Perform services by appointment only.
  - Contact customers prior to an appointment and ask key questions about their health, travel, and if they have been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.
  - Ask the customer to reschedule if there are any concerns.
- Do not keep magazines, books, or other items meant to be shared in customer areas.
- Do not allow customers to bring anyone with them to an appointment. Only allow a customer to bring a guest under certain circumstances:
  - The patron is a minor and the guardian must be present.
  - The patron is receiving a procedure where a witness is desirable or required.
  - The patron insists on having a guest for support.
    - Consider delaying services to the above mentioned patron's until further guidance that social distancing is no longer required.

---

## EMPLOYEE HEALTH

Mandatory:

- Employees must perform daily symptom assessment\*
  - \* Daily symptom assessments should include assessing for symptoms and taking your temperature with a thermometer and monitoring for fever.
  - \*Per the CDC, symptoms include cough, shortness of breath or difficult breathing, and two of the following: fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headaches, sore throat and new loss of taste or smell
- Require employees to stay home if symptomatic
  - Refer to CDC's guidance on [What to Do If You Are Sick](#) for information about how to discontinue home isolation.
- Require regular handwashing by employees
- Immediately isolate and seek medical care for any individual who develops symptoms while at work
  - Contact the local health department about suspected cases or exposures
  - Shutdown area for deep sanitation if possible

Guidance / Best Practice:

- Be as flexible as possible with staff attendance and sick-leave policies.
  - Ensure that your sick leave policies are up to date, flexible, and non-punitive to allow sick employees to stay home to care for themselves, children, or other family members.
- Remind staff to stay at home if they are sick.
  - Isolate and send home anyone who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19.
  - If an employee reports to work and becomes symptomatic, separate the employee from other employees and send them home immediately. Restrict their access to the facility until they have recovered.

- Do not require a healthcare provider's note to validate the illness or return to work of employees sick with acute respiratory illness; healthcare provider offices and medical facilities may be extremely busy and not able to provide such documentation in a timely way.
- Reinforce key messages — stay home when sick, use cough and sneeze etiquette, and practice hand hygiene — to all employees, and place posters in areas where they are most likely to be seen.
- Provide protection supplies such as soap and water, hand sanitizer, tissues, and hands-free disposal receptacles for use by employees.
- Consider providing disposable sleeve covers for artist to add a protective layer to the arms.
- Review and update policies for worker protection and provide training to all cleaning staff on site prior to providing cleaning tasks. Training should include when to use PPE, what PPE is necessary, how to properly don (put on), use, and doff (take off) PPE, and how to properly dispose of PPE.
- Employers must ensure workers are trained on the hazards of the cleaning chemicals used in the workplace in accordance with [OSHA's Hazard Communication standard](#).
- Keep your staff informed by regularly providing up-to-date information about COVID-19 and policies. Communicate the importance of practicing preventive actions.

### **Cleaning and Disinfecting After Persons Suspected/Confirmed To Have COVID-19 Have Been in the Facility**

Follow CDC guidance for [Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities – Interim Recommendations for U.S Community Facilities with Suspected/Confirmed COVID-19](#)

- Follow instructions for **How to Clean and Disinfect: Hard (Non-porous) Surfaces, Soft (Porous) Surfaces, Electronics, Linens, Clothing, and Other Items That Go in the Laundry.**
- Follow instructions for **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Hand Hygiene**
- Review **Additional Considerations for Employers**

---

### **OTHER RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICES**

- Use contact-less payments where possible
- Group employees by shift to reduce exposure
- Wear eye protection when providing services in close proximity to client, when possible
- Launder work clothing daily and shower immediately upon returning home from the establishment
- Provide health questionnaire for symptoms at entry point.
- Consider checking the temperature of customers and guest temperature with a no-touch thermometer.
- Everyone who enters the building (including employees when they arrive) should wash their hands immediately using hot water and soap for at least 20 seconds.
- Add hand sanitizer at reception counter for use before and after transactions.
- Add hand sanitizer in procedure areas to be used by employee and customer.  
*\*Hand sanitizer is not a replacement for an artist to comply with hand washing requirements.*
- Cleaning and Disinfecting
  - Read the label to ensure you are using an EPA-registered disinfectant. Click [here](#) to search the products that meet the criteria for use against COVID-19.
  - Wipe down electronics, counters, pens, etc. after every customer.
    - Have customers bring their own writing utensil or supply one for them to keep.
    - Use new barrier film on surfaces between customers where feasible.
  - Areas of the facility that require frequent cleaning
    - Bathrooms
    - Door handles
    - Sinks
    - Procedure areas
  - Establish cleaning frequency and ensure all employees are aware of cleaning protocols.

- Customers / Clients and Record Keeping
    - Update client record information forms to contain information for the client to answer questions related to [Symptoms of Coronavirus](#).
    - Consider providing virtual consults so people do not have to come in to have any questions answered.
    - Consider asking clients to bring a change of clothes in a sealed bag – client will change into clean clothes when they arrive at facility.
    - Do not allow clients to walk around the facility during breaks.
    - Post information in the facility with the most current information to remind clients about safe practices including social distancing and hand washing.
- 

## NATIONAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

National guidance may be considered best practice but is intended as *recommendations*; regulations from your local government must be followed.

Alliance of Professional Tattooists (APT)

- [Alliance of Professional Tattooists Temporary Protocols During Re-entry to Work during COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

The Association of Professional Piercers (APP)

- [Recommended Response & Recovery Interim Protocols](#)

Body Art Education Alliance (BAEA)

- [COVID-19 Back To Work Guidance](#)
- 

## ONLINE RESOURCES

Frequently check online resources for updates regarding most current information regarding COVID-19.

Body Art and COVID Online Resources:

- [Alliance of Professional Tattooists \(APT\)](#)
- [Association of Professional Piercers \(APP\)](#)
- [Association of Food and Drug Officials \(AFDO\)](#)

COVID Online Resources:

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
  - [National Environmental Health Association \(NEHA\)](#)
  - [Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\)](#)
  - [Ohio Department Of Health \(ODH\)](#)
- 

## PRINT RESOURCES

Print materials are developed to support COVID-19 recommendations. All materials are free for download. They may be printed on a standard office printer, or you may use a commercial printer.

Body Art Education Alliance (BAEA): [COVID Signage for Studios](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): [PRINT RESOURCES](#)

---

## BUILDING WATER SYSTEMS

Columbus Public Health (CPH) [Guidance for Building Water Systems](#)

*Legionella is a bacteria that can grow in building water systems that remain stagnant and are not properly maintained. Ensure that your water system is safe to use after a prolonged shutdown to minimize the risk of Legionnaires' disease and other diseases associated with water.*