



# Non-higher Risk Personal Appearance Services Hairdressing Information Sheet

*This fact sheet provides information for operators about the health and hygiene requirements of the Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Act 2003 and the Infection Control Guidelines for Personal Appearance Services 2012.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Hairdressing is the procedure that is intended to maintain, alter or enhance a person's appearance involving facial or scalp hair and includes cutting, trimming, styling, colouring treating or shaving the hair.

Under the *Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Act 2003*, hairdressing is classified as a non-higher risk personal appearance service. This means that beauty therapists are not required to be licensed with Council; however you still have an obligation to notify local government if you start a new business and Council is obligated under the Act to inspect your business annually and charge a fee. Although you are not required to be licensed to operate, you must still take all reasonable precautions to minimise the risk of infection to clients as a result of procedures carried out by your business.

## 2. PREMISES

All hairdressing premises should be fitted out with the following:

- Adequate hand washing facilities
- Adequate equipment washing facilities
- Floors, walls, ceilings, benches and cupboard surfaces should be finished in materials suitable to enable easy cleaning
- Adequate vermin-proof cupboards for clean linen and clothing
- Adequate waste receptacles

## 3. PERSONAL HYGIENE

Hand washing is generally considered to be the most important measure in preventing the spread of infection. Hand washing removes significant numbers of infectious agents when it is done properly.

Hairdressers should wash their hands:

- Before and after treating a client
- After smoking, eating or going to the toilet
- After cleaning contaminated equipment

## 4. EQUIPMENT

- Clean, disinfect or sterilise instruments and materials, depending on the instrument and its use according to Guidelines 1.6 and 5 of the Infection Control Guidelines for Personal Appearance Services
- Handle, store and use all materials to a client in a way that minimises contamination
- Ensure that equipment is kept clean at all times

## 5. PROCEDURES

Re-usable instruments should be cleaned as per Guideline 1.6 prior to use on a client. If instruments accidentally become contaminated with blood, follow the cleaning instructions below:



### **Cleaning hair cutting scissors after accidental contamination with blood**

- Clean the scissors as per Guideline 1.6; and
- Disinfect the cleaned scissors with either:
  - A 70-80% ethyl alcohol soaked wipe, or
  - A 60-70% isopropyl alcohol soaked wipe, or
  - A cloth or tissue soaked in methylated spirits

### **Cleaning electric hair clippers after accidental contamination with blood**

- Clean electric hair clippers as part of routine cleaning and after accidental contamination with blood
- Disconnect the clippers from the power source
- Remove hair from the clipper teeth
- Clean the clipper with a plastic brush dampened with 70-80% ethyl alcohol or 60-70% isopropyl alcohol solution or methylated spirits. Wipe over visible accessible areas with a clean cloth dampened with detergent and water as per Guideline 1.6.1 of the Infection Control Guidelines for Personal Appearance Services 2004
- Allow clipper teeth and other cleaned areas to air dry
- Clean the cleaning brushes and cloths as per Guideline 1.6.3

### **Cleaning and sterilizing other instruments following accidental contamination with blood**

If other re-usable instruments become contaminated with blood, clean and sterilise them (see guideline 50 before using on another person)

### **Head lice treatments**

For treating clients with head lice:

- Use a non-chemical treatment (e.g. white hair conditioner and comb) or a chemical (insecticidal) treatment (by following the instructions on commercially available head lice products)
- Clean instruments used in head lice treatments (e.g. combs) as per Guideline 1.6.1, method 1
- Kill head lice and their eggs which stick to linen by:
  - Washing the linen in a washing machine using the hot water cycle; or
  - Placing the linen in a hot clothes-dryer cycle for 15 minutes; or
  - Soaking the linen in near boiling water for 30 minutes

### **Shaving**

- It is recommended that a new single-use disposable safety razor or a single-use disposable open straight blade razor is used on each client
- If a razor with a re-usable handle is used, operators must ensure that a new razor blade is used for each client. The razor blade must be immediately disposed of after use
- If a re-usable open straight blade razor is used, it must be cleaned after each use as per the directions of Guideline 1.6
- Razors accidentally contaminated with blood or other body substances, it must be cleaned and sterilised as per Guideline 5 before it is re-used on another client

## **6. POST-TREATMENT**

Ensure that you wash your hands after providing a service to each client and ensure that all equipment is cleaned and sterilised according to the Infection Control Guidelines for Personal Appearance Services 2012.

