

Personal Service Facility Awareness

What is a Personal Service Facility?

A **personal service facility** is one where services such as electrolysis, hair cutting/styling, manicures/pedicures, body piercing and tattooing services are provided to or on the body of another person.

What are Invasive Personal Services?

Invasive personal service procedures are those intended to penetrate the body either by incision or insertion of an item into or through the skin or any other means intended to puncture, break or compromise the skin. Examples of these types of procedures include, but are not limited to: body piercing, tattooing, beading, branding, electrolysis, scarification, stretching, acupuncture, micropigmentation and microblading.

Are Facilities that Offer Invasive Personal Services Regulated?

The Health Hazard Regulations require personal service facilities to be operated:

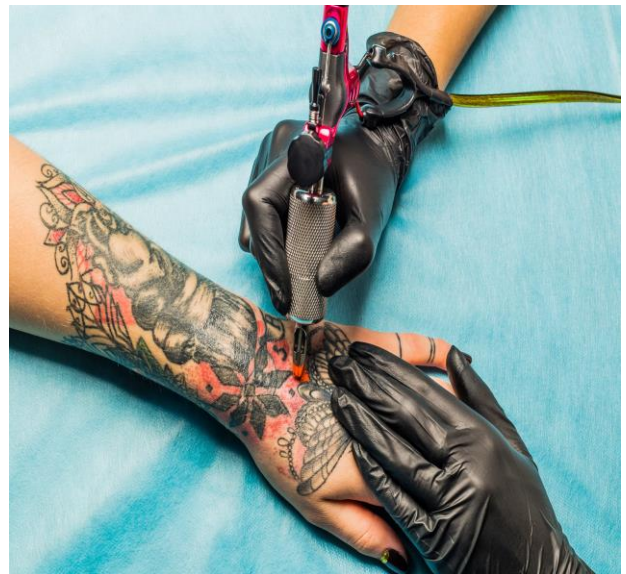
- in a hygienic manner; and,
- in a manner that prevents or minimizes the risk of transmission of disease to clients and/or individuals providing personal services.

Public health officers conduct unannounced inspections of known invasive personal service facilities at least annually.

What are the Health Risks Associated with Invasive Personal Services?

Bloodborne and other infections may be transmitted through personal service procedures to clients and/or to persons providing personal services. The type of health risk depends on the nature of the service, e.g. surface treatments vs. procedures that puncture the skin. Exposure through skin penetration or mucous membrane exposure to blood or body fluids may result in a variety of infections, including but not limited to: Hepatitis B virus, Hepatitis C virus, Human Immunodeficiency Virus, Herpes Simplex Virus as well as fungal and bacterial infections of the skin and blood.

Poorly operated personal service facilities may lead to the spread of disease(s) or infection through unsanitary conditions, improper design/materials and/or cross contamination by instruments/equipment. The persons providing personal services and/or clients in the premises may also spread diseases or infections.



How Can I Educate Myself Before Agreeing to Any Invasive Personal Service Procedure?

Consider whether:

- The service area is separated from other businesses and/or living quarters by partitions or walls;
- The facility is clean and in good repair;
- There is a hand sink, easily accessible from each work station, and equipped with liquid soap and paper towels for operator/staff use;
- Needles and sterile equipment are opened in front of the customers (to assure sterility); and
- The operator/staff wear clean clothing, wash their hands between customers, wear single use gloves, and refrain from eating, smoking or drinking while providing services.

Ask questions:

- Will the operator provide a copy of a public health inspection report conducted within the last 12 months?
- Does the facility use sterile, single-use, disposable needles?
- If the operator uses reusable equipment, e.g. needle receiving tubes, clamps, forceps, calipers, does he/she have an autoclave for sterilizing reusable equipment?
- Is an antiseptic solution used to disinfect the skin surface?
- Are disposable ink-caps used or is the needle dipped directly into the ink bottle contaminating the ink?
- Are tube or pump containers or single use spatulas used to dispense lotions, creams or waxes?



Only if and when you are comfortable with what you learned about a facility should you agree to an invasive personal service procedure at that facility.

Concerns or inquiries about personal service facilities may be directed to your local [public health inspector](#) in your [health region](#).