

# Hair and Barbering Services Information Sheet

## What are hair and barbering services?

Hair and barbering services are procedures done to the hair of a person's head or face. Examples include cutting, colouring (e.g., dyeing, streaking, tinting, highlighting/lowlighting), styling, curling, straightening by heat or relaxant chemicals, shaves, blow drying, extensions, and scalp treatments. These are considered non-invasive services.



Photos: Hair cut ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)); Barber ([www.lookfordiagnosis.com](http://www.lookfordiagnosis.com))

## What are the Risks?

Hair and barbering services are non-invasive and considered low risk because they typically do not result in contact with blood and/or other body fluids or exposure to mucous membranes.

- Procedures involving the use of a razor carry the risk of cutting the client. Cut or broken skin may allow entry of bacteria resulting in infection. Potential sources of these bacteria are contaminated equipment and tools, the client's own bacteria, a contaminated environment, and unclean hands. Other sharp tools such as scissors and clippers can also penetrate the skin accidentally. Practitioners should not provide service to a client with head lice or signs of a fungal infection of the scalp or neck. Advice may be provided to the client to see a health care provider for assessment.
- Allergic reactions to chemical products used in hair and barbering services may occur.
- Use of chemical products may result in scalp irritation, hair breakage, hair loss, or other irreparable damage.

## How are Infectious Diseases Transmitted and Prevented?

SOURCE	TRANSMISSION	What can an Operator do for Prevention?
Operator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of handwashing</li> <li>• Inadequate infection control measures followed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thorough hand washing at appropriate times</li> <li>• Thorough hand rubbing with hand sanitizer</li> <li>• Refraining from work with active signs and symptoms or a lab positive for a communicable disease</li> </ul>
Client	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-contamination (i.e. from skin bacteria)</li> <li>• Person to person</li> <li>• Poor aftercare</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not perform procedure on or near irritated skin</li> <li>• Refrain from performing services on clients with active signs and symptoms or a lab positive for a communicable disease</li> <li>• Provide proper after care instructions to clients</li> </ul>
Equipment/ Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improper disinfection</li> <li>• Re-use of soiled, single-use instruments</li> <li>• Contamination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disinfect re-usable equipment</li> <li>• Properly discard single-use tools after use</li> <li>• Do not let tools and instruments come in contact with unclean surfaces or equipment</li> </ul>

# Infection Control Requirements for Hair/Barbering Services Equipment and Tools

## Equipment and Tool Categorization

<b>Critical</b>	Any instrument intended to penetrate the skin or mucous membrane, or contact the puncture site, contact blood or body fluid, or a sterile instrument before puncturing the skin.
<b>Semi-critical</b>	Any instrument intended to contact non-intact skin or a mucous membrane but does not penetrate it.
<b>Non-critical</b>	Any instrument intended to contact intact skin, but may accidentally contact non-intact skin or receive blood or body fluid splatter.
	Any instrument or equipment that does not directly contact the client or contacts only intact skin.



Photos: Hair Coloring ([www.colorbox.com](http://www.colorbox.com)); Straight Razor shave ([www.refinedguy.com](http://www.refinedguy.com))

## Level of Disinfection Required by Item Type

ITEM	CATEGORY	LEVEL OF DISINFECTION
Razors (disposable safety razors)	Semi-critical	Single use only
Straight Razor (blade)	Semi-critical	High-level disinfectant or single-use
Clippers	Non-critical	Intermediate-level disinfectant
Straight Razor (handle)	Non-critical*	Low-level disinfectant
Scissors	Non-critical*	Low-level disinfectant
Combs and brushes	Non-critical*	Low-level disinfectant
Rollers (with smooth surface)	Non-critical*	Low level disinfectant
Electric razor handle	Non-critical*	Low-level disinfectant

\* If a non-critical instrument receives blood or body fluid splatter or accidentally contacts non-intact skin, the instrument remains non-critical but requires **intermediate-level disinfection**

Refer to “Instrument Reprocessing – Disinfection” Fact Sheet for information and examples on disinfecting tools.

## Other Considerations

Clothing protectors, such as capes, should not contact the client’s neck or face. A sanitary strip or clean towel is to be used to keep the cape from coming in contact with a client’s neck. Neck strips must be discarded after use and towel is to be laundered after each use. Refer to the Saskatchewan Personal Services Best Management Guidelines and the “Instrument Reprocessing” Fact Sheets for information and examples.

For Further Information please contact your local Public Health Inspector through office found here:  
<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/public-health/public-health-inspectors>

The Saskatchewan Personal Services Best Management Practices and other Saskatchewan personal service fact sheets can be found here: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/environment-public-health-and-safety/environmental-health/personal-service-facilities>