

## **Phase 1 Guidance**

### **Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Guidance for Cosmetology and Barber Professionals**

During Phase 1, the public and businesses will be required to adopt new behaviors and rigorous safeguards to reduce risk for all. In Phase 1, **barbershops and hair salons may allow services by appointment only with strong safeguards and physical distancing**. If providing services, **the following measures should be implemented to help reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission amongst employees, customers, and the community**. For additional information, visit [coronavirus.dc.gov/phaseone](https://coronavirus.dc.gov/phaseone).

Please note that any individual experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, or was recently exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19, should not work in or visit a salon due to the risk of exposing others. Symptoms of COVID-19 may include: fever (subjective or 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit), chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, or otherwise feeling unwell.

#### **Employees and Customers Should Practice Everyday Prevention Measures**

- **Stay at home if you are sick** or were recently exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- Stay at least 6 feet from other people when possible and allow no more than 1 client per stylist/barber in the hair salon.
- Employees and customers should wear a cloth face covering at all times.
- Gloves should be worn as indicated per routine job responsibilities.
- Perform frequent hand hygiene (with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub).
  - Key times to perform hand hygiene include
    - Before and after using the toilet,
    - Before and after putting on, touching, or removing cloth face coverings,
    - Before and after work shifts and work breaks,
    - Before and after services to each client,
    - After handling customer belongings, and
    - After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Employer considerations to encourage employee and customer safety
  - Provide supplies to allow for frequent hand hygiene (e.g. soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol) at each workstation and in customer areas (e.g. check out spaces and waiting areas).
  - Provide staff with appropriate personal protective equipment (e.g. masks, gloves) and cloth face coverings.
  - Implement leave policies that are flexible and non-punitive, and allow sick employees to stay home.
  - Educate employees about COVID-19. Refer to <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/> for more information.

#### **Avoid Close Contact and Reduce Touchpoints**

- Arrange workstations, common areas, break rooms, and other areas of the business to ensure at least 6 feet between customers and employees. Consider closing off or limiting access to areas where physical distancing cannot be practiced.
- Use visual cues to help prevent congregating in waiting areas or checkout areas.
- Move retail inventory to “no-touch” areas (i.e., behind a counter).
- Implement payment via digital platforms, as much as possible.
- Remove high touch items that are not able to be cleaned or disinfected from the service areas of the business (e.g., magazines, newspapers).

**Screening and Monitoring for Symptoms**

- Perform screening (e.g., symptom questionnaires) of employees and customers daily, prior to entering the facility. Place a sign at entrances informing customers of any screening procedures.
- Maintain a daily record of individuals in the business for at least 30 days.

**Clean and Disinfect**

- Business should have a comprehensive plan for cleaning and disinfecting high traffic and high touch surface areas (e.g., counters, payment kiosks, restroom, etc.) routinely throughout the day, and in between customer use.
- Scheduling should allow for adequate time to clean and disinfect between customers.
- For more information about disinfectants that are effective against the virus that causes COVID-19, see the CDC website <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>.
- If the building has been closed for an extended period of time, remember to check HVAC systems to ensure all water systems are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown.

**Establish a Plan for COVID-19 Exposure**

- If a staff member or patron diagnosed with COVID-19 reports having visited your establishment during their infectious period (starting 48 hours before symptom onset), please be prepared to close your business for at least 24-48 hours to perform appropriate cleaning and disinfection, and for DC Health to perform an initial investigation and provide recommendations. The establishment can reopen based on guidance from DC Health.
- Please note, anyone who is exposed to COVID-19 will be required to quarantine for 14-days from the date of their exposure. If the exposed person undergoes testing and the test result is negative, they will still be required to complete the 14-day quarantine to ensure symptoms do not develop during the remainder of the incubation period. If the test result is positive, they should follow up with their healthcare provider and will be required to isolate until cleared by DC Health.

The guidelines above will continue to be updated as the outbreak evolves. Please visit

<https://coronavirus.dc.gov/> regularly for the most current information.