

Recommended Best Practices for Barbers and Salons

Updated June 19, 2020

The following requirements found in the most recently issued Directed Health Measures (DHM) must be followed at all times if a salon or barbershop is to reopen. <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Directed-Health-Measures.aspx>

- All clients and staff **MUST** wear facemasks at all times on-site.
- Barbershops and salons must adhere to the current Directed Health Measure requirements for beauty/nail salons, barber shops, massage therapy services, tattoo parlors/body art facilities.

Reopening barbershops and salons amid the COVID-19 pandemic will require adherence to best practices and State of Nebraska DHM guidelines to decrease risk to staff and clients. In addition to the requirements found in the DHM as outlined above, salons and barbershops are asked to adhere to the following guidelines developed in partnership between the Division of Public Health, the Department of Economic Development, State industry leaders and the Get Nebraska Growing Task Force. The following best practice recommendations should be used in conjunction with current [Nebraska Sanitation and Safety Regulations for Cosmetology and Esthetics](#) and [Nail Technology](#) and Nebraska Board of Barber Examiners guidelines (visit <https://barbers.nebraska.gov>). These guidelines may be adjusted as necessary during the period of COVID-19. Shop owners should visit OSHA [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#) for additional information. *Refer to your local DHM, in some areas an exception regarding masks has been made for services on the face provided by staff. Patrons are permitted to remove their mask while receiving services directly. The mask must be worn by the patron at all other times while on the premises.*

Staff

- Stagger shifts to comply with DHM and reduce the number of persons in the shop.
- Whenever possible, practice social distancing between staff. Redesign workflow, designate tasks and workstations to specific employees or contact pods to minimize comingling and maximize social distancing.
- Enhance employee safety training, emphasizing hygiene etiquette (avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth), and proper hand hygiene including washing hands for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after any sneezing or coughing, or after touching high touch surfaces (e.g., door handles, chairs, and tables).
- Complete employee pre-screening (e.g., take temperature and assess for any symptoms consistent with COVID-19) prior to starting work.
- Consider using stickers after fever check and a confidential symptoms log. Communicate daily with staff that they must immediately inform a manager if they feel sick or experience any symptoms, including, but not limited to: onset of fever, cough, or shortness of breath.
- Employees who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID-19 (either lab-confirmed or clinical diagnosis) should notify their supervisor prior to the start of their work shift. The employer should consult with their [local health department](#) to assess whether there was an exposure to the family member at home (example: if the individual takes care of the sick family member) or if there is no exposure (example: individual resides in a separate room and bathroom) before determining if it is appropriate to come into work or needs to self-quarantine. Continue to monitor employee health during their shift for COVID-19 [symptoms](#) (including, but not limited to: fever, cough, shortness of breath). If an employee becomes sick at work, send them home immediately and then clean and disinfect surfaces in their workplace. Other employees and customers at the facility with close contact (within 6 feet) of the sick employee during this time



should be considered exposed. Instruct sick employees to stay home and follow the CDC's [What to Do If You Are Sick](#) precautions and consult with their local health department on additional guidance.

- Create a [response plan](#) for any instance of an employee with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19. If needed, consult your [local health department](#) for additional guidance.
- Staff should consider bringing a change of clothes to change into after the shift.
- Staff should keep cell phones away or in a central location, with disinfecting wipes available. Disinfect the cell phone after use.

Facility

- Customer chairs should be at least six feet apart. Refer to your local DHM, as physical distancing may be mandated.
- Remove items that cannot be disinfected from the lobby, such as magazines, stylebooks, etc.
- Utilize disposable or reusable capes, replacing with a clean cape for every customer. Launder porous or disinfect non-porous capes. Wash in hot water and dry on high heat.
- Disinfect all items that contact the customer before each new customer.
 - Station counters
 - Electrical implements used in services
 - Shears
 - Mirrors
 - Styling tools
 - Brushes and combs
 - Rolling carts
 - Drawers or storage containers (handles)
 - Product on the station
 - Any other piece of equipment used on a client
 - Chair/headrest
- Clean doors and wipe down door windows every 30 minutes inside and outside of salon.
- Provide hand sanitizer dispenser inside the front door for clients.
- Where possible, utilize front and rear doorways to establish one-way traffic flow through the facility.
- Stagger delivery schedules.
- Consider replacing HVAC and hair dryer filters.
- Create signs/posters advising of new policies.
- Do not stack towels at client stations. When possible, keep towels in airtight locations separate from client stations.



Customers

- Encourage appointments to be made online or by phone; discourage walk-ins. If able, utilize advance payment online, contactless payment, cards and gift cards over cash.
- Customers should wait outside in the car prior to being called in for the appointment, or wait in line six feet apart in front of the shop.
- If lobby area is needed, add signage or tape markings to designate where customers can stand or sit; reduce quantity of chairs in the lobby or increase space between chairs; wipe down lobby chairs every 30 minutes; remove toys, games, TV remotes, promotional materials, beverages and coffee machines; and remove sign-in sheets.
- Discourage customers from bringing in personal items (purses, jackets, etc.).
- Encourage customers to wash their hair prior to appointment. This practice will help decrease the use of blow-dryers.

Guidelines for Specific Services

Nail Services Stations

- Many of these best practices are set in the Nebraska Sanitation and Safety Regulations. Natural nail salons should regard regulations for Nail Technology as best practices.
- All items on a nail station should be new, never used; or, cleaned and disinfected then stored in a closed container.
- Remove all parts of the pedicure bowl that can be removed.
- Clean all removed parts with soap and water, rinse in clean water then immerse into properly diluted disinfectant for full recommended contact time.
- Scrub bowl with soap and water and replace removed parts to bowl.
- Rinse bowl with clean water.
- Fill bowl again with clean water and proper amount of disinfectant, and let stand for the proper time (usually 10 minutes).
- If your bowl has jets, allow jets to run for a full 10 minutes with disinfectant.

Back Bar/Shampoo Area

- To shampoo around the customer's ears, request the customer to remove mask attachment areas and manually hold the mask for service.
- Disinfect the shampoo bowl after each service.
- Clean and disinfect the hot towel dispenser.
- Towels should be stored in cabinets/airtight containers.
- Wipe down shampoo chair with disinfecting wipes before and after service.
- Wipe down shampoo capes with disinfecting wipes after each use; allow to air dry.
- Place used perm rods in covered container to be sanitized daily.
 - Once sanitized, place in covered sanitized container.
- Disinfect back bar/shampoo products with disinfecting wipes after each use.

Esthetics or Cosmetics

- Follow the hygiene standards listed above. Do not shake hands. Wash hands frequently and before each customer, etc.
- For cosmetics, use a spatula to dispense color onto a pallet; do not work directly from the tester; do not use the back of your hand to mix color or test before applying; and use disposable brushes whenever possible.
- An exception regarding masks has been made for services provided by estheticians. Patrons are permitted to remove their mask while receiving services directly. The mask must be worn by the patron at all other times while on the premises.

