

Recommended Best Practices for Body Art (Branding, Body Piercing, Permanent Color Technology and Tattooing)

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 tattoo/body art studio 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.
- Body art facilities must adhere to the current Directed Health Measure requirements for beauty/nail salons, barber shops, massage therapy services, tattoo parlors/body art facilities.

In addition to the requirements found in the DHM as outlined above, tattoo/body art studios are asked to adhere to the following guidelines developed in partnership between the Division of Public Health, the Department of Economic Development, industry professionals and the Get Nebraska Growing Task Force. For more industry guidance, see resources from the [Association of Professional Piercers](#); the [Alliance of Professional Tattooists](#); or the [Society of Permanent Cosmetic Professionals](#). *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 studio.
- 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.
- PPE worn by staff, such as gloves, gowns, drapes or eye coverings, must be changed between each customer.
- 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.
- Do not allow additional guests; only one client and one body artist. No friends or family, with the exception that one parent or guardian may be present if a minor is receiving a procedure
- Disinfect workstations (including chairs, tables, electrical appliances and cords, etc.) and all items that contact the customer before each new customer. Clean, sterilize and disinfect all non-disposable implements after each use.
- Discard and replace products that have been used, or that have been contaminated after improper or unsanitary use.
- Disinfect frequently touched objects at a minimum of every four hours, e.g., doorknobs, gates and counters.
- Body artists and clients must wash hands prior to each procedure, for at least 20 seconds.
- Staff must change disposable gloves between each client.
- Clean doors and wipe down door windows every 30 minutes inside and outside of studio.
- 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
- Ensure your facility has proper ventilation. Adjust your HVAC setting to circulate fresh air coming in to your workspace.
- Create signs/posters advising of new policies.

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. Staff should wipe POS surfaces with disinfectant between each use.
- 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.).

Services

- Procedures requiring the removal of customer masks are allowed in some jurisdictions, please refer to the local DHM. Customer may remove their mask during services performed on the face. The customer must wear a mask at all other times.
- Aftercare instructions can be provided electronically along with intake forms.