

Waxing/Hair Removal

Infection Prevention and Control Information for Operators

What is the Health Risk?

Instruments and equipment used for waxing/hair removal may become contaminated with blood or body fluid that contains blood-borne infections such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C or HIV. Other infections, such as fungal or bacterial infections, may occur if equipment is not properly cleaned and disinfected.

You do not have to see blood or body fluids on instruments, equipment or surfaces for an infection to occur.

Protect Yourself

- Wash your hands well before and after each client. Use liquid soap under warm running water and then dry with a disposable paper towel.
- Alcohol-based hand rubs can be used as an alternative to hand washing if hands are not visibly soiled.
- A new pair of gloves must be used on each client and changed between breaks on the same client.
- Hands must be washed before and after using gloves.
- Ensure the area of the client's body you will be working on is free from any cuts, wounds, rashes or visible infections.
- Single-use, disposable needles/lancets or razors must be thrown out immediately after use in an approved sharps container labeled "biohazard."
- Keep your vaccinations up to date:
 - Hepatitis B vaccine – 3 doses
 - Tetanus vaccine – every 10 years
 - Influenza vaccine – every year

Protect Your Clients

- Single-use, disposable spatulas must be used when dispensing wax from a heated pot if applying directly onto skin.
- "Double-dipping" is not permitted in any situation.
- The temperature of the heated wax is not hot enough to kill germs.
- Individual cartridges of wax in wax rollers must be thrown out after each client or sold to that client. The roller head must be cleaned and then disinfected using an intermediate- or high-level disinfectant after each client. See **Disinfection of Instruments and Equipment** chart.
- Products (e.g. wax, sugaring products, etc.) used during the hair removal process must not be reused or recycled.

- Instruments/equipment (e.g. tweezers, scissors, eyebrow brushes, etc.) used to remove hair must be cleaned and then disinfected using an intermediate- or high-level disinfectant after each client. See **Disinfection of Instruments and Equipment** chart.
- Use single-use, sterile needles/lancets to expose ingrown hairs **not** tweezers.
- Single-use, disposable items (e.g. threads, cotton swatches, etc.) must be thrown out after each client.
- Single-use, disposable items and reusable instruments/equipment must be stored in a sanitary manner (e.g. covered container).
- Towels, sheets and linen must be laundered after each client.
- Work surfaces (e.g. tables, headrest, etc.) must be cleaned and then disinfected using a low-level disinfectant after each client. See **Disinfection of Instruments and Equipment** chart.
- Keep accidental blood exposure records on site for a minimum of one year and on file for five years. Records must include the following information:
 - First and last name of person exposed
 - Address and phone number of person exposed
 - First and last name of personal service worker involved
 - Date of injury
 - Site of injury
 - Circumstances surrounding incident
 - How equipment was cleaned and disinfected following incident
 - Action taken

**For more information please contact the Infectious Disease Control Team at
519-663-5317 ext. 2330 or go to www.healthunit.com**

Source:

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. (2009). *Infection prevention and control best practices for personal services settings*. Retrieved from http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/oph_standards/ophs/progstds/pdfs/pssp_2008.pdf

Date of creation: July, 2011

Last modified on: November 17, 2012