

Safely Re-Opening the Professional Body Arts Industry

Context & Categories

- Requirements/compliance to operate as a professional in the Body Arts industry in NH
- Floor plans, responsible business operation & safe-practice guidelines
- Clientele
- Financial impacts
- Additional facts & noteworthy references
- Guideline Supplement

Requirements & Compliance

- Licensing requirements for professional body artists
 - Blood-Bourne Pathogens
 - First Aid/CPR/AED
 - Skin Dermatology
- Workplace compliance
 - EPA-registered disinfectants, meeting virucide, bactericide & fungicide requirements
 - All surfaces within work areas are non-porous & able to be properly disinfected
 - Readily available PPE & proper usage
 - All equipment/supplies are either 1-time-use only &/or fully sterilizable
 - All studio staff trained on Covid-19 procedures/guidance before opening doors to public

Responsible business operation & Safe-practice guidelines

- Alleviation of invasive procedure concerns regarding blood/bodily fluid
- Universal Precautions- Hand Hygiene, Proper use of PPE, Respiratory hygiene & cough etiquette, Environmental cleaning
- Implementation of NH HHS/CDC/WHO Covid-19 Guidance
- Floor plans - open concept & private rooms
 - Both types of floor plans achieve & exceed social distancing guidelines
 - Proper sterilization of work & public surfaces
- Staggered, appointment-only/client-only business model
 - Elimination of walk-ins, lobbies & hand-holders to control human traffic flow
 - Pre-appointment client communication describing studio Covid-19 procedures
- The NH Office of Professional Licensure has a 3-member advisory board comprised of professionally licensed, respected body artists from our state. Their complete recommendations are attached as a supplement to this presentation.

Clientele

- Verification of client ID- pre & post Covid-19
- “Underground” body art
 - Unlicensed artists entering NH
 - NH residents obtaining illegal work outside NH
 - NH residents using the internet marketplace to obtain tattoo equipment to tattoo themselves, friends/family
- In all cases, work performed in unsanitary environments, by untrained administrators, using non-sterile equipment
- Increased public health concern, not only from Covid-19 spread, but all other blood-borne pathogens and improperly administered procedures leading to infection, scarring, etc.
- Roughly 40 body art studios and a few hundred artists statewide
 - Little if any “crossover” clientele
- Petition to re-open the body art industry signed by 3,100 NH residents

Financial Impacts

- Independent contractors (vs. W2-type employees) have been hit especially hard
 - 7+ weeks without income
 - Severe delays in public assistance such as Unemployment
 - Federal, SBA-backed EIDL & PPP loans harder to obtain
- PPP/EIDL - Use & timeframes determine status of Loan vs. Grant
 - EIDL - Amount granted determined by # of “employees”
 - PPP - 8 week usage deadline
- Rent/Mortgage - no eviction, but still owe “financial obligation”
 - Residential vs. commercial
 - Larger stores/chains/franchises vs. “mom & pop” small businesses
- Busy/Slow Season - 70/30

Additional Resources & Notable Facts

- Artists have the non-preferred option of creating & selling other types of art during this time, but doing so negates unemployment.
- Essential vs. non-essential business- adoption of & use of PPE
- Studio occupancy - The combined number of artists & clients (5+5) abides by the large gatherings guidance
- Duration of appointments & number of appointments, per day
- Additional sanitization methods - Hepafilters, UV-C Light Sterilizers & Bio-Misters
- BAEA (Body Art Education Alliance) recommendations for safe, 3-phased reopening:
 - https://ultimatetattoosupply.com/blogs/news/the-body-art-education-alliance-covid-19-back-to-work-guidance?mc_cid=ace2eficd7&mc_eid=ed73d837ac
- BAEA recommendations comprised of input/guidance from the 3 professional organizations for Tattooing (APT), Body Piercing (APP) and Permanent Cosmetics (SPCP)
 - APT - <https://safe-tattoos.com/tattoos-%26-covid-19>
 - APP - https://www.safepiercing.org/docs/APP_Recommended_Post-COVID19_Closure_Reopening_interim_protocols.pdf
 - SPCP - https://www.spcp.org/pdfs/SPCP_Covid19_Return_to_Work_Guidance.pdf

NH OPLC Advisory Board Supplement

Health and Public Safety Recommendations for the Reopening of Professional The Body Arts Industry April 2020.

These recommendations are to correspond with all definitions and are in addition to the rules currently in place.

Back-to-work plan

Checklist of Supplies needed:

Because we currently have to disinfect all workspace areas, and maintain sterile tools most body art studios will already be following most cleaning practices.

- A disinfectant wipe or spray effective against COVID-19
- Hand sanitizer for front counter and customer areas
- Paper drape coverings for procedure tables
- Masks for body art practitioners
- Masks for clients
- Goggles or a face shield for body art practitioners

Prior to opening Checklist

Reception and retail area:

- Discard magazines and other non-essential items in the waiting room that can not be wiped down.
- Wipe down all soft surfaces like couches or chairs.
- Consider removing any non-essential chairs or couches or using a plastic covering.
- Clean and disinfect all hard, non-porous surfaces such as counters, computer keyboard, I-pads, phones, door handles, light switches, and point of sale equipment.
- Clean and disinfect all cabinets and display cases
- Clean and disinfect all portfolios if possible, or begin using a website or online platform to display portfolios for clients to see.
- Remove appointment cards and use e-mail or phone appointment reminders.
- Wipe and disinfect all display and sale item products.
- Place signage in windows directing clients to wash hands and put on masks upon entering the establishment.
- Place signage in window to notify clients of your diligence in practicing proper infection control.
- Place signage in bathroom detailing the proper method of hand washing and hand hygiene.

Work Stations:

- Clean and disinfect all non-porous items used in your services, as required.
- Check the expiration dates of all tools, needles, and tubes. Any expired disposable items must be discarded.
- All expired sterilized reusable tools must be cleaned and re Sterilized.
- All bottles, jars, and containers must be closed tightly and wiped with a disinfectant.
- Single use items must be stored in a closed container until use.

- Clean and disinfect all work stations, rolling carts, drawers and any storage containers.
- Tables and chairs must be cleaned and disinfected.
- Remove all fabric and porous chairs from the procedure areas.
- All ink bottles should be closed tightly, cleaned and disinfected. They should be stored on a shelf or in a drawer.
- Extra items like ink bottles must be removed from the work stations. Any item on a work station during a procedure must be covered with a barrier during the procedure, and cleaned and disinfected after the procedure.
- Paper towels must be stored inside a cabinet or a storage container.

Restroom:

- Clean and disinfect all surfaces, toilets, and sinks.
- Replace any soft goods (toilet paper, paper towels)
- Consider upgrading to touch less faucets, paper towel and soap dispensers.
- Consider adding touch less hand sanitizer dispensers
- Place a trash near the door
- Remove any products stored in the restroom

On-Going safety

Practical Changes:

1. Consider making studios appointment only. Phone numbers or websites can be posted on the door and clients can call in or go online to schedule an appointment slot. This will ensure that there will not be groups of people in the waiting areas.
2. E-mail clients information ahead of appointment time on your studio procedures and what to expect upon arrival.
3. E-mail clients aftercare information
4. E-mail or call to ask clients to stay home if they have a fever or are not feeling well.
5. Refuse service if the client has symptoms or arrives with symptoms.
6. Consider asking clients to fill out consent forms via E-mail before their tattoo appointment, or use a digital device in a sealed case that can be cleaned and wiped with a sanitizer to fill out the consent form.
7. Staggering appointments. Have clients wait in their vehicles, or outside of your business until their exact scheduled time. This will prevent groups of people in the waiting area.
8. Limit body art procedure areas to the customer and practitioner only, unless required by law (minor piercings). Ask clients to leave friends at home.
9. Limit the amount of people in a piercing/ tattoo studio to 10
10. Upon entering the studio, have clients place their phone in a bin where they will wipe it or use a phone cleaning device, clients will put on a mask, and wash their hands.
11. Using video conferencing or e-mail to limit in person services. Such as troubleshooting, aftercare questions, consultations.
12. Encouraging customers to use touch-less payment options when available.
13. Ask Employees to take and log their temperature daily, and refuse to let them work if symptoms are present.
14. Practitioners and employees must practice hand hygiene before and after every interaction with a new customer.
15. Have clients and employees remain apart when not performing services.
16. Discontinue the practice of shaking hands.
17. Coffee and snack stations for clients should be closed or removed.
18. Clients will not eat or drink inside the studio, as they must wear a mask and not touch or remove it until they are outside of the studio.
19. All regularly used surfaces, such as countertops, pens, tablets, seating areas, bathrooms and door handles must be disinfected between clients.

20. Consider using HEPA Air filtration in procedure rooms.
21. Employees and practitioners should limit their eating and drinking inside the studios, and consider eating in their cars or outside if available. Dishes, or cups should not be shared.

Work station procedure changes:

1. Before each new client practitioner must wash hands, put on a mask, medical safety goggles and gloves, and set up their stations
2. Any containers storing single use items (disposables, ink caps) must be opened and prepared while the practitioner is in a mask and gloves, and the client is not in the room. Then all items must be closed and stored inside containers and cabinets before the client arrives.
3. Paper towels must be put out before the procedure and any remaining paper towels in the room at the end of the procedure must be disposed of.
4. During tattooing procedures gloves, protective medical goggles, and masks must be worn by the practitioner. Masks must be worn by the client.
5. During piercing procedures, the practitioner should be wearing gloves, goggles, and a mask. If the practitioner is performing services that do not allow the client to wear a mask, the practitioner should also wear a face shield.
6. Practitioners who are performing services that do not allow customers to wear a mask (like nostril, or oral piercings) should use discretion and limit non-essential nasal and oral procedures until we have more relevant data.
7. At the end of the procedure, the client should wear their mask out of the studio.
8. Then the practitioner will dispose of all single use items in a trash bag, clean and disinfect all surfaces, tables, chairs, goggles, and workstations.
9. The practitioner will take all trash outside of the studio to place in the proper trash receptacle.
10. They will immediately wash their hands.
11. When supplies allow, a new mask should be worn when setting up and performing a procedure on a new client.
12. At the end of the day, floors will be cleaned with a disinfectant or bleach solution.

Hand Hygiene:

1. Wash hands with soap/water for 30 seconds before/after eating, smoking and using the restroom
2. Wash hands immediately before and after providing a client (hand sanitizer where allowed)
3. Provide hand sanitizer at reception desk and all stations for clients to use
4. Maintain intact skin by frequent use of lotion

Cleaning and Disinfection:

1. All implements (non-porous) being used on more than 1 client, must be cleaned and disinfected for the full contact time on the disinfectant label before being used
2. Stations, chairs, rolling carts and any other storage containers disinfected daily

Cleaning and Disinfection of Implements and Surfaces:

1. Clean item or surface: Cleaning is intended to prepare the item or surface so that disinfectant can make full contact with the material and be effective against all pathogens listed on the label
 - Cleaning may be done with soap/water, chemical cleaner or wipe
2. Rinse and dry implement or surface
3. Disinfect using a properly concentrated disinfectant made for immersion, a spray or wipe
 - All disinfectants must be EPA-registered as bactericidal, virucidal and fungicidal
4. Observe full contact time on manufacturers label
 - This means that implement or surface must stay visibly wet for full contact time listed
5. Immersed items should be removed at the end of contact time, rinsed and dried with a paper towel

Cleaning and Disinfection of Electrical Implements:

1. Clean implement with wipe or spray and remove any debris
2. Use an EPA-registered bactericidal, virucidal and fungicidal spray, foam or wipe to disinfect implement for full contact time listed on the manufacturers label
3. When contact time is complete, dry with paper towel

Disinfection Reminders:

- ✓ Disinfectants must be EPA-registered and labeled as bactericidal, virucidal and fungicidal. No product will be labeled for COVID-19 yet, but many will have human coronavirus efficacy either on their label or available on their websites. The EPA has approved any product that has tested as effective against human coronavirus, to make a claim for COVID-19 at this time.
- ✓ Disinfection only works on a clean item, so cleaning before disinfecting is always the first step. Methods to clean include soap/water, chemical cleaners
- ✓ Contact time listed on the label must be observed for disinfectants to work. The contact time refers to how long the surface must stay visibly wet with the disinfectant to inactivate or destroy all of the pathogens on the label. Typical contact time for immersion/sprays is 10 minutes, for wipes is 2-4 minutes.
- ✓ Disinfectant for immersion must be made fresh daily and replaced if it becomes contaminated sooner. For example, hair/debris floating in solution or a cloudy solution.
- ✓ Disinfection is for hard, non-porous surfaces, typically things made of glass, metal and plastic or referred to as synthetic materials.
- ✓ Porous/soft surfaces cannot be disinfected, but can be cleaned. This would include but is not limited to items such as towels, chairs covered in a porous material and your hands/body.