



## **Handout for Hairdressing & Barbering**

### **What is the Health Risk?**

When performing your services, you and your clients are at risk of being exposed to pathogens such as bacteria, fungi, HIV and Hepatitis.

**You do not have to see blood on equipment or surfaces for an infection to occur.**

### **Before you begin a service:**

- You should wash your hands with liquid soap and warm water and then dry with disposable paper towel or under electric hand dryer.
- Apply a single use, disposable neck strip or newly laundered towel to client's neck.

### **After completing a service:**

- You should again wash your hands with liquid soap and warm water drying them with disposable paper towel or under electric hand dryer.
- Remove all visible hair, oils and chemical products from the hair clippers or trimmers. Since these items **may** have come in contact with blood, they should be disinfected with an intermediate level disinfectant. An acceptable disinfectant should state on the label that it is effective in destroying Tuberculosis or Mycobacteria. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Clean and disinfect all combs in low level disinfectant allowing for appropriate contact time. \*Note: Barbicide (the blue solution) is a low level disinfectant. It can be used on pre-cleaned items such as surfaces, combs, brushes, rollers, chairs, scissors and clippers that **have not broken the skin**.
- Dispose of all single use razor blades between each client. Dispose sharps in an approved puncture resistant sharps container.
- Clean and disinfect reusable straight blade razor handle and cradle using an intermediate level disinfectant.
- Launder used towels, sheets and linens after each client and store in clean drawer or container with a lid to prevent contamination.
- Clean and disinfect head rests, worktables and chairs daily using a low level disinfectant, such as 1 teaspoon of bleach with 10 cups of water solution.
- Clean and disinfect scissors, if the skin has been nicked, with an intermediate level disinfectant.

<b><u>Level of Disinfection</u></b>	<b><u>Intermediate</u></b>	<b><u>Low</u></b>
<b>Examples:</b> *Please follow manufacturer's instructions:	1 part bleach: 49 parts water	1 teaspoon of bleach per 1 liter of water
	70% Ethyl or Isopropyl Alcohol	Quaternary Ammonium (ex. Barbicide)

This handout serves as a guideline and was produced based on the following sources:

- Health Canada, Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Personal Services, July 1999.
- The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Infection Prevention and Control Best Practices for Personal Services Settings, January 2009.