

Quick guide to Covid-19 Controls in Close Contact Services (Published November 2021)

Introduction

To help limit the spread of the new Omicron Covid-19 variant the government has reintroduced the requirement for both customers and employees to wear face covering in close contact service businesses.

Every workplace has a legal duty to undertake a health and safety risk assessment and implement suitable control measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19 between employees and members of the public. When undertaking your risk assessment you must have regard to the available guidance. Following the guidance is not compulsory, unless specifically stated, and you are free to take other action, so long as the same level of protection is achieved. But if you do follow the guidance you will normally be doing enough to comply with the law. Health and safety inspectors seek to secure compliance with the law and may refer to guidance. Failure to implement suitable control measure may lead to formal action being taken against the duty holder(s) including Fixed Penalty Notices, Prosecution and/or Closure.

Guidance for people who provide close contact services, including hairdressers, barbers, beauticians, tattooists, sports and massage therapists.

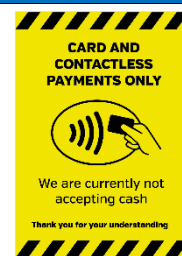
The guidance leaflet should be read alongside and supplements, the government Guidance for Close Contact Services: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-covid-19/shops-branches-and-close-contact-services> Other Guidance including an example salon risk assessment can be found under the Close Contact Services section of our website: www.preston.gov.uk/cv19closecontactservices



Reception



- Protect staff and the customers by providing a screen at the reception desk
- Customers are legally required to wear face coverings by law.
- You must also display a sign reminding people to wear a face covering.



- Limit the handling of cash as it can transfer the virus.
- There are many affordable card payment systems on the market such as iZettle, SumUp and Square Reader.

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- Provide hand sanitizer for all customers and ask them to use it when they enter & leave the premises.



- Limit the number of people in your waiting area. Chairs must be spaced at least 1 meter apart and not facing each other, or have barriers/screens between the chairs.
- Operate an appointment system.
- If you are not operating appointments ensure it's a one-in one out policy when the seating area is full.
- Ensure you have external queue management in place.



Maintaining Records for Test and Trace. Close-contact service venues are encouraged to display an official NHS QR code poster. Although you are no longer legally required to do so, this will support NHS Test and Trace to contact those who may have been exposed to COVID-19 so that they can book a test. (*No-one is asked to isolate just because they have checked into a venue where a COVID positive person has visited*). You can generate an NHS QR code poster online, to enable individuals to check in using the NHS COVID-19 app. You should also have a system in place to record contact details for those who do not have the app (Template register sheets can be downloaded from our website).

Workstations

Chairs should be 2 meters apart or should be separated by barriers. Barriers must be easy to clean.



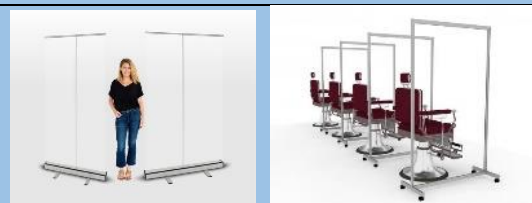
This salon is only using 2 of the 4 chairs.



The work stations in this salon are closer than 2 meters so they have erected screens between the chairs.







This salon is using barriers and tape



- Pop up screens easy to install and cause no lasting damage to the salon
- Pop up screens are relatively cost effective, prices start from around £40 per unit.
- Wheeled screens are more robust, can be moved around to suit your needs, but can cost more.

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PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A face covering must be worn by the technician (Barber/Stylist/Hairdresser/Artist) and a face covering must be worn by the client. The client may remove the face covering if the mask is interfering with the treatment, so essentially trimming around the ears or trimming a beard. (Intricate detailing, outlining or shaving of beards should not be provided), tattooing the face, semi-permanent make up to the lips or electrolysis to the face around the mouth. Businesses failing to ensure that the correct face coverings are used by staff and customers can be served with a Fixed Penalty Notice and/or prosecuted. 	
	
	Beards:
PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)	
	
We recommend that the technician should wear a disposable apron/coverall. This should be changed between clients.	The clients must wear a new clean cape every time. It is better to provide disposable capes. Non-disposable capes need to be washed at 60°C between clients.
Cleaning and Disinfection	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>All</u> equipment must be cleaned and disinfected between clients, this includes the chairs. You should always refer to the instructions for the equipment and cleaning chemicals. Ensure you allow sufficient time to clean the workstation between clients. Due to the cleaning times it may be prudent to have more than one set of equipment for each technician. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scissors, clipper guards, clips, combs, brushes (including cleaning brushes) etc. can be cleaned by washing with soap and water and immersing in a disinfectant such as barbicide (Other brands are available). Immersion barbicide usually requires at least 10 minutes contact time to be effective. Equipment must be completely immersed. 	<p>Cleaning of clippers must also be undertaken between each client:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove the guard and wash & soak in barbicide Brush any debris from between the teeth, try using a pipe cleaner too. Spray with disinfectant such as Clippercide whilst operating the clipper to get the clippercide between the teeth, ensure the clippercide has sufficient contact time, typically this requires 10 minutes to work. Wipe the handle (and any cable) with anti-bac or barbicide wipes.

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<p>Most premises undertaking skin piercing activities such as tattooing, piercing acupuncture etc should follow their normal robust infection control procedures.</p>	
<p>Workstations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The floor should be swept of any hair • Chairs must be wiped down with an anti-bac wipe • The shelf where tools are placed must be cleaned of debris and wiped down with an anti-bac wipe 	
<h3>Ventilation</h3>	
<p>Good ventilation brings fresh or cleaned air into indoor spaces. The more fresh air that is brought inside, the more diluted any airborne virus will become. In poorly ventilated spaces, residual virus can remain in the air after an infected person has left and increase the risk of COVID-19 spreading.</p>	
<p>You should maximise the supply of fresh air in your premises. You can do this through:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fully or partially opening windows, air vents and doors to improve natural ventilation • if you use mechanical ventilation, ensuring that your systems are set to maximise fresh air and minimise air recirculation. Maximising the amount of fresh air your system draws in or ensuring additional fresh air will help avoid COVID-19 spreading • even during the colds winter months, ventilation remains important. You may wish to consider installing 'hot air curtains' or changing the layout of your premises; moving people away from open windows and doors. 	
<p>For further information on ventilation can be found on the HSE website: www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus</p>	
<h3>Training</h3>	
<p>All staff must be trained in the new procedures. It is a good idea to show the written risk assessment for your premises and talk through the risks and control measures.</p>	
<p>CoVid Awareness Training is offered by CPD On-line College: https://cpdonline.co.uk/course/covid-19-awareness/</p>	<p>Free CoVid Training is also offered by Barbicide: https://barbicide.com/certification/</p>

