

COVID-19 Guidance for Barbering, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Nail Technology, Electrology, Tanning, Tattoo, and Body Piercing Establishments and Schools as well as Other Similar but Unregulated Professions (i.e. Massage and Natural Hair Braiding)

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The continued health and well-being of both the professional and the clientele of these industries is a top priority, and the best way to help ensure that is to always practice proper establishment/school and personal hygiene-not just related to the spread COVID-19.

Out of an abundance of caution, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Board of Cosmetology (KBOC) urges establishment and school owners and professionals providing these services, where permitted, to be extra vigilant in compliance with the regulations operated under every day. Click [here](#) to review useful information on planning for COVID-19. It is further recommended establishment and school owners and professionals consider the following best practices to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, based on collective information from both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO):

Stay Informed: You are encouraged to stay informed by contacting your local leaders and following all recommended safety precautions. Please check with your local health department for any specific requirements they may have in addition to these recommendations. Click [here](#) to access the Kansas Public Health Directory:

Click [here](#) to access the KDHE COVID-19 Resource Center for the latest information as the situation evolves:

Click [here](#) to learn more about the symptoms of COVID-19 versus the cold, flu and allergies.

Establishments should monitor the COVID-19 community levels in the area and consider the additional precautions provided in this guidance in areas of high COVID-19 community levels. Click [here](#) to view the COVID-19 community levels for your area.

Guidance for All Areas Regardless of COVID-19 community levels

Get Vaccinated: Everyone 5 years of age and older is now recommended to get a COVID-19 vaccination. Get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you can. Widespread vaccination is a critical tool to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Click [here](#) to read more information about the COVID-19 vaccinations.

Click [here](#) to find COVID-19 Vaccines near you. Click [here](#) for more information on what it means to be Up to Date on COVID-19 vaccinations.

Stay Home If You Are Sick: Try to keep your immune system strong - increase your vitamin C intake (fruits and vegetables are the best source of this), get plenty of sleep, and drink plenty of water. However, if you or your client get sick it is strongly recommended to stay home. As an added measure, it is recommended to offer your clientele a “sickness cancellation policy” during this time that does not penalize any client for cancelling their appointment due to illness or concern for compliance with social distancing. Sick leave policies should also continue to be relaxed for staff.

Get Tested: If you have symptoms of COVID-19, if you have had close contact with a COVID-19 positive person, or if you have any other potential exposure, it is recommended that you be tested. More information about this recommendation can be found by clicking [here](#). In Kansas, anybody who wants to get tested for COVID-19 can get tested. Testing is provided at no cost, and you do not need to provide ID or have symptoms or a known contact with COVID. Click [here](#) for more information on COVID-19 testing.

Customers and practitioners under isolation or quarantine need to stay home and services cannot be provided until isolation or quarantine is lifted for that individual.

Anyone with symptoms, a positive test or was exposed to COVID-19 recently and has completed their home isolation/quarantine period should continue to wear a mask for an additional 5 days when around others.

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Face Coverings: Establishments should follow the masking guidance for indoor spaces based on the COVID-19 community levels. Click [here](#) to view the COVID-19 community levels for your area.

Establishments should encourage clients/staff who are older, or immunocompromised, to wear a mask indoors regardless of COVID-19 community levels.

People can always wear a mask based on personal preference, informed by personal level of risk.

Children under 2 years of age should not wear a mask.

Face Shields: CDC does not recommend using face shields or goggles as a substitute for masks. Goggles or other eye protection may be used in addition to a mask. Do NOT put a plastic face shield (or a mask) on newborns or infants. For more information on when to wear a mask and selecting a mask click [here](#).

Disinfection: The Kansas Barbering and Cosmetology boards always require proper cleaning and disinfection of all non-porous items (and sterilization as applicable by law) from tools and implements to areas with counter tops, treatment rooms, back bars, reception areas, and workstations.

If disinfecting products do not specifically list the Coronavirus due to shortened supplies, those products labeled for viruses such as HIV, hepatitis, and herpes will still have a high probability of being an effective disinfecting agent. Be sure to wipe down busy areas often with a disinfecting spray or wipe for the full contact time listed on the label.

Pay extra attention to the contact time on all disinfecting products. Contact time is the amount of time an item or surface must remain wet with disinfectant to completely kill all bacteria, viruses, and fungi. Disinfecting products, depending on the products being used, vary widely in contact time. So, it is important in combating Coronavirus to read the manufacturer's label and follow timelines exactly.

Well-stocked Establishment: Make sure your establishment and school have tissues, soap, and alcohol-based hand cleansers readily available to the public and to service providers to encourage healthful habits.

Alternative Disinfection Methods: The effectiveness of alternative surface disinfection methods, such as ultrasonic waves, high intensity UV radiation, and LED blue light against the virus that causes COVID-19 has not been fully established. Click [here](#) to read more about cleaning and disinfecting your establishment.

Wash Your Hands: The CDC recommends washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds to help prevent the spread of germs. Wash your hands before and after every client, before and after eating, after using the restroom, blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. Keep a 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer at your station as well. Click [here](#) to read more about when and how to wash your hands.

Signage and Communication: Post signage at the front desk, as well as in the establishment and school break rooms reminding guests and employees about the importance of hygiene standards such as hand washing, use of sanitizer, wiping down stations after use, covering coughs, and hands-off policies. Also, it is important to share with your clientele the precautions your establishment and school are taking to do its part in helping to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Consider messaging during online bookings, on the phone, via text, and in person. You can print posters and access graphics for social media from the online KDHE COVID-19 Resource Center. Click [here](#) to access the KDHE COVID-19 publications page for these resources.

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Guidance for High COVID-19 Community Level Areas

In addition to the recommendations provided for all areas, the KDHE and the KBOC recommend that you consider following this additional guidance in high COVID-19 community level areas. Click [here](#) to view the COVID-19 community levels for your area.

Face Coverings: It is recommended that both the client and practitioner wear a face covering while services are provided regardless of vaccination status of the client or practitioner in areas of high COVID-19 community levels.

Common Areas and Touchpoints: Remove items from common areas such as waiting areas, bathrooms and checkout counters that cannot be made safe through disinfection, such as magazines and toys. Non-porous items cannot be disinfected (i.e. leather and leather-like surfaces). In fact, multiple disinfection attempts may actually ruin these items. Use cleaning wipes or soap and water to wipe these items with a towel that is then washed.

Wipe down check-in and checkout counters, pens, credit card machines and touchscreen surfaces between uses as frequently as possible. Try to limit touchpoints as much as possible.

Hands Off/Social Distancing: During this time, shaking hands or giving hugs to your clients and co-workers is not a good idea. Rather, tell your client that you are practicing good hygiene and following “social distancing” protocol to help keep everyone healthy. Also, keep your hands away from your face, as that is an easy path for transmission.

Provide for as much social distancing as feasible. Consider removing or blocking some chairs to increase space between seats. Try to limit the guests in establishments and schools to customers only with no bystanders. Schedule appointments with more time between to reduce number of people in waiting area and to allow extra cleaning and disinfection time (and sterilization as applicable by law) between customers.

Double Booking: Consider not double-booking clients during this time.

Pre-Screen/Screen and Monitor: Contact scheduled clients prior to their appointment and remind them to not come in if they are exhibiting symptoms (fever greater than 100 degrees, cough or shortness of breath). Upon arrival, ask questions about symptoms again. Observe throughout the appointment for symptoms. Walk-in establishments and schools should screen immediately upon arrival.

Children: Consider discouraging children in the establishment and school. Although they are not considered high risk for complications due to COVID-19, they frequently touch surfaces.

High Risk Consumers: Consider offering appointments to any at risk clients, for example elderly clients, either before normal operating hours or after normal closing hours to minimize the chance of other clients coming into the establishment and school. Another option is to have clients wait in their car and call them in once the previous client has left and the establishment and school have been disinfected.

Nasal hair Waxing: The practice of nasal hair waxing is discouraged since the nose is the first line of defense for the body.

