

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health (BPH) continues to respond to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in West Virginia. BPH is working closely with communities, state agencies, local and federal partners to monitor the ongoing risk of COVID-19 and ensure the health and protection of all individuals in West Virginia.

In accordance with Governor Jim Justice's plan, "West Virginia Strong: The Comeback," tattoo and body piercing studios need to follow the guidance provided in this document.

COMMON SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

PERSON-TO-PERSON TRANSMISSION

- Occurs via small droplets from the nose or mouth of the infected person when they cough, sneeze, or exhale.
- Virus can remain on surfaces for a limited time period. Although less common, transmission may occur from touching contaminated surfaces and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

GENERAL PREVENTION

- Learn about COVID-19 from reputable sources.
- Maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet between yourself and others.
- Encourage proper handwashing.
- Clean and sanitize surfaces often.
- Do not share food, drinks, etc.
- Wear cloth face coverings.
- Stay home if you feel sick.
- Isolate sick individuals.

PATRON HEALTH AND COVID-19

- Do not get tattoo or body piercing services if you are currently:
 - Experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or
 - Diagnosed with COVID-19, or
 - Self-isolating due to COVID-19 exposure.
- Wear a cloth mask while receiving service.
- Maintain 6 feet of space between yourself and other customers.
- Establishments must post these recommendations at customer entrances.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Employees that are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or diagnosed with COVID-19 should not work.
- Employees should wear a cloth mask or face covering when providing services.

TATTOO AND BODY PIERCING STUDIOS

- Occupancy restrictions set forth in 64 CSR 114 still apply.
- Schedule patrons by appointment and allow for adequate cleaning and disinfection in between.
- Allow no spectators or guests while services are being performed. Only the artist and patron can be present.
- Arrange for patrons to wait in their cars or outside for their appointment.
- If waiting outside or in a car is not an option, social distancing of 6 feet must be maintained in the waiting room.
- Encourage electronic payment when possible.

CLEANING AND SANITIZING

- Employees must continue to follow all health, safety and cleaning rules set forth in W.Va. Code §16-38. for Tattoo Studios and 64CSR80 for Body Piercing Studios.
- Clean and disinfect any frequently touched surfaces in the studio such as doorknobs and payment kiosks.

PUBLIC RESTROOMS

- Clean restrooms throughout the day, and at minimum at start of day, mid-day, and end of day.
- Include frequently touched surfaces like handles, levers, doorknobs, and feminine hygiene disposal boxes with fixture cleaning.
- Use cleaning agents normally used in these areas and follow the directions on the label.



PUBLIC RESTROOMS continued

- Provide disposable wipes or paper towels so a barrier can be placed between hands and commonly used surfaces.
- Post signage about patron health and COVID-19 prevention on doors along with handwashing reminders.
- Use approved disinfectant products:
 - <https://www.americanchemistry.com/Novel-Coronavirus-Fighting-Products-List.pdf>
 - <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>
 - Diluted bleach solutions, made fresh daily:
 - 1/3 cup of bleach per gallon of water.
 - 4 teaspoons of bleach per quart of water.
 - Alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol.
- Mop floors with disinfectant or a bleach solution whenever possible.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Promote the use of face coverings.
- Provide training to employees on proper glove and mask handling and removal.

CLEANING GUIDELINES WHEN A PERSON UNDER INVESTIGATION OR POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 IS IDENTIFIED IN WORKPLACE

- **Contact your local health department for questions regarding current guidance.**
- Ensure employee(s) performing cleaning are provided with proper PPE: gloves, goggles or a face shield, a facemask, and solid surface shoes that can be sprayed with disinfectant.
- Perform routine cleaning with usual products, following manufacturer's directions.
- Disinfect with an approved disinfectant listed above, following manufacturer's directions for contact time and for applicable surfaces to be cleaned.
- Launder linens, clothing, and clothing bags on the warmest setting possible.
- Do not shake out dirty laundry.
- Dry on normal setting.
- Dispose of waste products used for cleaning, and then remove PPE.
- Discard used disposable PPE and/or properly disinfect reusable PPE items.
- Wash hands for 20 seconds and dry with a disposable towel.

USE OF FACE MASKS AND COVERINGS

- CDC recommends the use of simple cloth face masks or coverings as a voluntary public health measure in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
- For workers who do not typically wear masks as part of their jobs, consider the following if you choose to use a cloth face covering to slow the spread of COVID-19.
 - 1) Launder reusable face coverings before each daily use.
 - 2) CDC has [additional information on the use of face coverings](#), including washing instructions and information on how to make them.
 - 3) Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their cloth face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.

NOTE: The cloth face coverings recommended by CDC are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.

Questions and concerns can also be directed to the 24/7, toll-free COVID-19 information hotline:

1-800-887-4304

