

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 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
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- Recent loss of taste or smell

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.

INDOOR FACE COVERING REQUIREMENT

- Effective July 7, 2020, all individuals over the age of 9 are required to wear face coverings when in confined, indoor spaces, other than one's residence or while actively engaged in the consumption of food and/or beverage, and when not able to adequately social distance from other individuals who do not reside in the same household, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 50-20.

INDOOR FACE MASK continued

- Exempt from this requirement are:
 - Children younger than 9 years old,
 - Anyone who has trouble breathing through a face covering, and
 - Persons who are unable to remove the face covering without assistance.

PATRON HEALTH AND COVID-19

- Do not get tattoo or body piercing services if you are currently:
 - Experiencing COVID-19 symptoms,
 - Diagnosed with COVID-19, or
 - Self-isolating due to COVID-19 exposure.
- As applicable, wear appropriate face covering.
- 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.
- As applicable, employees should wear cloth face coverings.

TATTOO AND BODY PIERCING STUDIOS

- Occupancy restrictions set forth in 64 CSR 114 still apply.
- Schedule patrons by appointments and allow for adequate cleaning and disinfection in between patrons.
- Only the artist and patron receiving services are allowed in the area where services are being performed.
- Arrange to allow patrons to wait in their cars or outside for their appointment.



TATTOO AND BODY PIERCING STUDIOS continued

- If waiting outside or in the 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 chapter 16, article 38 of the West Virginia Code for Tattoo Studios, and 64 CSR 80 for Body Piercing Studios.
- Clean and disinfect any frequently touched surfaces within the studio such as doorknobs and payment kiosks.

PUBLIC RESTROOMS

- Clean restrooms as needed throughout the day but at a 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.
- 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>
 - Dilute bleach solutions, made fresh daily:
 - 1/3 cup of bleach per gallon of water; or
 - 4 teaspoons of bleach per quart of water.
 - Alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol.
- Mop floors with disinfectant or bleach solution whenever possible.

USE OF FACE COVERINGS

- CDC recommends the use of simple cloth face coverings as a voluntary public health measure in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., restaurants, grocery stores and pharmacies).

FACE COVERINGS continued

- Launder reusable face coverings before each daily use.
- CDC has [additional information on the use of face coverings](#), including washing instructions and information on how to make homemade face covers.
- 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.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [WV Strong the Comeback – Small Business Businesses and Workplaces](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Prepare your Small Business and Employees for the Effects of COVID-19](#)
- [General Business Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [OSHA Guidance on Preparing Workplaces](#)

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

1-800-887-4304

