

Clarification for Complying with Covid-19 Requirements for the Hair Industry, supported by the MOH

Hair & Barber New Zealand continue to work with the Ministry of Health to ensure the safety of our industry and to ensure industry has the correct COVID-19 information. We can now release this latest piece of work and thank the Ministry of Health for their support and agreement that H&BNZ's guidelines are appropriate for complying with COVID-19 requirements.

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Safety Area	Rationale	MOH Response
<p>Use of masks for staff & clients</p> <p>MOH Website: as of 21 September the MOH website states <i>'Maintain basic hygiene measures (customers and staff), such as frequent hand washing and mask wearing.'</i> (https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-specific-audiences/guidelines-businesses-and-services?fbclid=IwAR3pLaf8cAap4ducFuFM4XO_vXA0SDWUFzQBKPDU_xmuqCPv31fxoRBYHiU#2)</p> <p><u>COVID-19 Public Health Response Act 2020</u> Hairdressers and barbers are legally required to wear a face covering.</p> <p>A person commits an offence if the person intentionally fails to comply with a COVID-19 order. E.g. Allowing staff to not wear a face covering, knowing there is not reason why they cannot where a face covering.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The amount of client's stylists & barbers sees in a day (hairdressers average: 7 per day, barbers average: 15 per day) And the amount of time that we spend with a client (hairdressers 1-3 hours, barbers 30 mins), close proximity to the client (under 1 metre), and the work that requires face fronting the client. 2. Working on the mantra 'wear a mask for others'. (https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/face-masks-collateral/Face-Coverings-Campaign-Poster.pdf) 3. Confusion with mall salon/barber clients required to wear masks, and non-mall not required. 	<p>Agree. All good reasons.</p> <p>My reading of the website guidance is that whilst hairdressing/barbers haven't specifically been listed, the intention is that they would be</p>



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	<p>Government websites show guidelines requiring business owners to follow safe practice to ensure staff and client safety.</p> <p>https://www.business.govt.nz/covid-19/face-coverings-requirements/?fbclid=IwAR3McqEqCckn8g-xSh6eF-GzNhXhyiAlez5WslJrIIBc8yDsfAxWVKI6ugI</p>	<p>covered by 'retail businesses such as shopping malls (not strictly retail perhaps but I think the shopping mall would be equivalent). I think the fact that the photograph is of a barber in which the client as well as the barber are wearing masks indicates this also.</p>
<p>Physical Distancing</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are differing distance guidelines on various government websites, ranging between 1-2 metres. A standard distance would make it easy to follow. 2. Suggest: 1.5 metres between clients, where practical in the salon/barber areas but, in reality, 1 metre – shoulder to shoulder between clients and 1 metre in the waiting area. 	<p>I understand the rationale. I think if you could specify 2 metres 'where practical' but accepting, in reality, it may not be as you've stated and I think the distance you have suggested is reasonable, especially given the nature of your business with close proximity to clients a necessity.</p> <p>I think being pragmatic is the approach we need to take so 2m is ideal but 1m would be acceptable if this were not possible and other infection control measures were in place (including the contact tracing of course which will be pretty complete in your industry).</p>



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	<p>3. The health regulation (hairdressing) state that the required distance between chairs is 1.5 metres. Salons and barber shops already have their chairs at this spacing (often fixed to the floor) and their mirrors attached to the walls at the same distance. At a 2 metre rule stores, would need to use every second seat, this is not economically viable.</p> <p>The heath regulations (hairdressing) state that the area for waiting will be .9m per person.</p> <p>4. The ability to contact trace down to what time the client arrived, who else was in the salon/barber shop at the same time, what time they left, is all available from booking software that businesses are already using. Also using the NZ Covid tracer app gives extra assurance on clients in store information.</p> <p>5. We are recommending the client wears a clean laundered cape, and staff wearing an apron. This is acting as our</p>	<p>Good</p> <p>Sounds reasonable</p>
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	<p>part of our 'appropriate PPE'.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Health Regulations (hairdressing) have specific guidelines on sanitation of equipment and personal hygiene. This can be increased easily to comply with covid 19 requirements. 7. Workers are excepted from physical distancing requirements where they need to have physical contact with the customer to carry out their service. 8. Health Regulations (hairdressing) have specific guidelines on sanitation of equipment and personal hygiene. This can be increased easily to comply with covid 19 requirements. H&BNZ guidelines we have released. Although we know some of it is not able to be enforced, it gives a standard benchmark for industry to reach, using the Health Regulations (hairdressing). 	<p>This is sensible</p>
<p>H&BNZ Hair Industry Response to Alert Levels</p>	<p>There is also an Industry Response Alert Level guideline document that we have overlaid onto the Covid 19 Alert Levels so that it is easy to follow. We have</p>	<p>Again, Good. Many industries have produced their own guidance, and this does make sense.</p>



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	standardised the information across all resources so that they are constantly giving the same advice.	
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To reinforce: all these measures work together along with measures such as [good hygiene](#), [hand sanitation](#) and ensuring [customers and staff](#) are screened for symptoms before they enter the building.