

INVASIVE PERSONAL SERVICES

Serious infections like Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV can spread during invasive personal services if proper infection prevention and control practices are not strictly followed.

WHAT ARE INVASIVE PERSONAL SERVICES?

Personal services include a variety of aesthetic treatments and personal enhancement services. Invasive personal services include any service where the skin is intentionally broken and are typically used to attempt to enhance or improve the appearance of the skin.

Invasive personal services may include:

- microneedling
- microblading
- wrinkle injections
- lip fillers
- permanent makeup
- ear and body piercing
- tattooing and
- platelet-rich plasma (PRP) facial, also known as a vampire facial

INFECTION RISKS

Disease-causing microorganisms can enter the body at the site of any break in the skin and cause serious infections. During invasive services, this risk can exist from:

- Reusable equipment that is improperly cleaned and/or sterilized between uses
- Improper use of single-use equipment
- Contaminated work surfaces
- Unclean hands touching the treatment area

If proper infection prevention and control practices are not followed during invasive services, there is a risk of spreading localized skin infections caused by bacteria, or more serious infections such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV.

PUBLIC HEALTH

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york.ca/InfectionPrevention



WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Check before you go

While owners and operators of personal service settings may have training on how to prevent infections, this type of training is not legally required to own, operate or work within these businesses.

York Region Public Health inspects personal service settings to ensure they comply with the [Personal Service Setting Ontario Regulation 136/18](#) and best practice guidelines to reduce the risk of infection to clients and workers during services.

It is important that you know what to look for to protect your health and reduce the risk of infection during your service. Make sure you check inspection reports before booking an appointment, and don't be afraid to ask questions. Check inspection reports at www.york.ca/YorkSafe

Things to look for:

Personal Service Setting:

- The personal service setting is inspected by York Region Public Health and a green **Proof of Public Health Inspection** sign is posted at the location
- All work areas are well lit, clean and organized

Personal Service Provider:

- Is knowledgeable and experienced in the service they are providing
- Cleans their hands before and after the service
- Checks the skin of the person receiving the service for open cuts or wounds and signs of infection – if found, service is refused
- Cleans the area of skin with a skin antiseptic before the service begins; antiseptic is not needed for piercings inside the mouth (clean with a toothbrush) or for genital piercings (clean with water and liquid soap)
- Applies skin antiseptic from a single-use packet or onto a cotton swab/cotton ball and then onto the skin
- Wears disposable gloves on both hands during the service and cleans hands immediately after taking off gloves
- Provides verbal and written aftercare instructions



Personal Service Equipment:

- Supplies required for a service are set up and equipment that is in packaging is opened just before the service begins in front of the person receiving the service – this would include any pieces of equipment that have been sterilized (e.g., jewellery pliers) or any single-use pieces of equipment that are only to be used on one person then thrown away (e.g., filler/wrinkle injection syringes and needles, microneedling tips/rollers, jewellery used for piercings)
 - Single-use items must be thrown away immediately after use
- Equipment and surfaces used are in good repair (e.g., no rust, cracks, etc.)

- A sharps container (often a covered yellow or red container) is located in the area that the service is being provided where sharp tools are thrown away immediately after use (e.g., needles, microneedling tips/rollers)
- Creams, lotions, petroleum jelly, ink and any other products used to provide a service are dispensed in a way that does not contaminate the original product (e.g., large containers are used with a pump or product is taken out of a container with a fresh applicator, there should be no fingers in jars)
- Clean sheets and towels are used for each person receiving a service
- Paper liners are thrown away after each person receiving a service
- Dressings that are applied to the skin after a service (e.g., tattoo) are to be single-use and intended for wounds (e.g., sterile gauze kept in place with medical tape); sterile dressings from a sealed package are preferred

SOURCES

1. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Guide to infection prevention and control in personal service settings. 3rd ed. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 201