

“Let’s Talk” COVID & CLOSE CONTACT SERVICES



As we are still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we want you to know that the Environmental Health Department is here to help with all of your covid and social distancing queries. We have also included useful links in this edition to help assist your business with recovery planning.

Please feel free to contact us.

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Edition 1: April 2021

Close contact Services Reopening Date

Close contact services in Northern Ireland can reopen from Friday **23rd April 2021 by appointment only** and may be subject to monitoring visits by the Environmental Health Department.



Close contact services are defined in schedule 2 of The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021 as:

- a) hairdressing or barbering;
- b) provision of beauty or aesthetics treatments including treatments in relation to nails or makeup;
- c) tattooing;
- d) tanning;
- e) services in spas;
- f) sports and massage therapy;
- g) well-being and holistic therapies;
- h) dress fitting, tailoring and fashion design (unless social distancing is maintained);
- i) body piercing;
- j) electrolysis;
- k) training in any of the services listed at (a) to (j)
- l) driving instruction for the test of competence to drive a vehicle other than a motorcycle established by Article 5 of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (a).

***Including those providing any of the above services from a mobile setting.**

Link to the Regulations:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/health-protection-coronavirus-restrictions-regulations-northern-ireland-2021>

Guidance links are included in this newsletter to help business owners with Reopening.

Quick guidance summary:

- You must complete a risk assessment for your salon (Link to HSENI example Covid Risk Assessment included in Newsletter) and link to example risk assessment for close contact.
- Where possible, you must keep a social distance of 2m between clients /or provide screens
- Maintain handwashing/sanitization
- Ensure you are wearing correct PPE (type 2 mask)
- Use a consistent team pairing/bubble system if necessary
- Maintain a high level of hygiene throughout the salon

Further steps:

- Encourage clients to use hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities as they enter the premises or before treatment.
- When booking an appointment, asking the client if they can attend on their own, where possible.
- Adjust how people move through the premises to reduce congestion and contact between clients, for example, queue management or one-way flow. This may only be possible in larger salons.
- Where possible try to operate an appointment-only system.
- Encouraging clients to arrive at the time of their scheduled appointment.
- Seeking to avoid skin to skin contact with colleagues, and clients if not crucial for the treatment, and wearing gloves where possible.

COVID-19 related screening questions to be asked of clients ahead of their appointment, including:

1. Have you had the recent onset of a new continuous cough?
2. Do you have a high temperature?
3. Have you noticed a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell?

Face Covering Regulations

“**Face Covering**” means a covering of any type which covers a person’s nose and mouth.

Face visors or face shields?

Face visors or shields do not offer the same protection as a cloth face covering which sits directly over the nose and the mouth.

If you wear a face shield or a visor you should also wear a cloth face covering or type 2 disposable face mask.

The use of cloth face coverings is recommended, as they provide much better protection from the risk of infection from the COVID-19 virus.

A person providing a close contact service as defined in the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021 must wear, and take reasonable steps to ensure that a person receiving the service wears, a face covering unless:

- a. A person has a reasonable excuse not to do so, or
- b. It is necessary not to wear a face covering due to the nature of the service.

The above information is taken from **The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021**, and can be accessed at the link below:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/doh-nisr-2021-96.pdf>

For additional protection it is strongly recommended in the guidance document (link on next page) that a **visor or goggles and a type 2 face mask** are worn, because of the period of time spent in close proximity to the client’s face, mouth and nose. Clear visors cover the face (and typically provide a barrier between the wearer and the client from respiratory droplets caused by sneezing, coughing etc.)

Client Information

In relation to close contact services visitor information must be:

- Obtained in advance or at the time of the visit.
- This consists of the name and telephone number of each person aged 16 years or above in attendance;
- the date and time of arrival;
- recorded in a filing system; and,
- retained for a period of 21 days beginning with the date on which the visit occurred.

The organiser or operator must destroy visitor information as soon as reasonably practicable after the 21 day period unless there is another basis outside these regulations on which the details may lawfully be retained.

The visitor information must be provided to a relevant person as soon as reasonably practicable but in any event within 24 hours of a request, if so requested by that person

This information is taken from the Guide to The Regulations, which is updated frequently to reflect changes to restrictions.

The guide can be accessed by the link below:

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/guidance-accompany-health-protection-coronavirus-restrictions-regulations-northern-ireland-2021>

Close Contact Services

NI Government Guidance - Close Contact Guidance

<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/keeping-workers-and-clients-safe-during-covid-19-close-contact-services>

NHBF (National Hair and Beauty Federation)

Link to NHBF website: <https://www.nhbf.co.uk/coronavirus/>

Reopening Guidance document for hair and beauty salons and barbershops.

https://target-euwest2.s3.amazonaws.com/media/reopening_your_salon_and_barbershop2020051416412541895.pdf

HABIA (Hair and Beauty Industry Authority)

HABIA are offering E-learning which is available on various subjects, including COVID 19 .There is a fee charged.

Link to HABIA website E-learning is <https://habia.org/e-learning>

L'Oréal

L'Oréal have produced a guidance document entitled 'Hygiene Guidelines for Hairdressers, Salons and Freelancers in the context of Covid-19'. Website link: <https://www.loreal.com/en/>

Good Salon Guide

The Good Salon Guide website offers guidance available to employers and employees on COVID 19 and downloadable resources are available. Website link is as follows:

<https://www.goodsalonguide.com/latest/covid-19-advice>

Professional Beauty Association

Document on back to work guidelines available on their website,

https://www.probeauty.org/docs/default-source/coronavirus-documents/pba-back-to-work-guidelines.pdf?sfvrsn=4afa9a9b_12

Barbicide

Barbicide have produced a 'Back to work Plan: A plan of action for your Salon, shop or spa following the COVID 19 pandemic'. Link to access this document is below:

<https://barbicide.com/back-to-work-plan/>

<https://barbicide.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/barbicide-reopening-plan-april-2020.pdf>

Hair Ministry Example Hairdresser Covid Risk Assessment and reopening risk Assessment (Found at bottom of page)

<https://www.hairministry.co.uk/covid-19-secure/>

Professional Beauty Website

COVID 19 resources for beauty salons. Website link and link to resources:

<https://professionalbeauty.co.uk/site/Home>

<https://professionalbeauty.co.uk/site/Coronavirus-Resources-Salons-Spas/>

There is also a free to download covid poster for your salon available at:

<https://professionalbeauty.co.uk/site/newsdetails/salon-coronavirus-reopening-guidelines-poster>

BABTAC (British Association of Beauty Therapy and Cosmetology)

Back to work guidelines for beauty salons and therapists:

<https://britishbeautycouncil.com/babtac-issue-back-to-work-guidelines-for-hair-beauty-salons/>

British Bridal Suppliers Association:

Coronavirus Guidelines for Bridal Retailers

<https://www.bridalsuppliers.co.uk/news/view/coronavirus-guidance-for-bridal-retailers>

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

COVID-19 is an infectious respiratory disease caused by a newly discovered Coronavirus.

It is still very important to wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds before preparing, handling or eating food.

> Working safely during COVID-19

Click below for guidance in regards to workplace safety

<https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-working-safely-different-business-settings>

> Assessing Health and Safety Risks

Click below for a template to help assess Health and Safety Risks within your business during the COVID-19 pandemic:

<https://www.hseni.gov.uk/news/example-risk-assessment-covid-19-workplaces>

Don't forget our website...

> You can find more details on how Council is supporting local businesses: during the Covid-19 pandemic by clicking on the link below:

<https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/>



> **Links to PHA guidance and posters**- the posters for handwashing and social distancing will be useful for display and available from the link below:

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications?keys=coronavirus> OR

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/social-distancing-posterW>

Water Systems

When buildings re-open, it is essential that hot and cold water systems such as taps, showers and water features are not brought back into use without first considering the **risk of Legionnaires' Disease**.

The following links provide guidance on how to assess and manage any potential risks prior to reopening.

<https://www.cieh.org/policy/coronavirus-covid-19/resources/>

(Legionnaires' disease: lockdown risks and reopening safely)

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/coronavirus/index.htm>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/healthservices/legionella.htm>

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/guidance-businesses-re-opening-after-temporary-closure>

Recovery Planning

The Council's Economic Development team offers support to local businesses through free mentoring. Topics include:

- **strategic planning**
- **financial management**
- **access to funding**
- **procurement**
- **marketing and sales**
- **research and development**
- **business efficiency**
- **human resources**
- **ecommerce.**

All mentoring at present is delivered remotely through telephone calls, video conference and email. These sessions provide an opportunity to plan ahead and prepare for the future, even if your business is currently closed.

For further details on any of the current business support initiatives, please contact our Economic Development team by emailing business@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk or by texting **Business to 80039**.

A range of **free business webinars**, filmed in response to COVID-19 is now available online by visiting <https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/lean/>

You can also access the latest Government guidance for businesses via our website by following the link below.

<https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/coronavirus-information-for-businesses/>