



COVID-19 REOPENING GUIDANCE FOR BUSINESSES PROVIDING HAIR AND BARBER SERVICES

UPDATED ON 9/1/2020

Note: On Friday, August 28, 2020, the State announced a shift from its Monitoring List to a color-coded four-tier Blueprint for Safe Reopening. In doing so, the State altered the reopening plans for some businesses and activities, opening some that had been prohibited and imposing new standards on others. The State also reiterated that local Health Officers have the power to impose greater restrictions than the State.

To the extent feasible, Hair Salons and Barbershops are encouraged to perform services outside.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document provides guidance for hair and barber services. This guidance is intended to support a safe, clean environment for hair and barber service providers and clients. Contact COVIDRecovery@acgov.org if you have questions or require technical assistance. For business resources, visit <https://covid-19.acgov.org/recovery.page>.

NOTE: The [Alameda County Reopening Plan](#) is in alignment with the [State's Blueprint for Safer Economy](#), but there will be areas where Alameda County is more restrictive than the State. The more restrictive guidance prevails.

BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS

1. Prepare and implement a [COVID-19 Site Specific Protection Plan](#) based on local and State industry guidance.
2. Train employees on COVID-19 prevention, symptom screening, face coverings, and importance of physical distancing and frequent handwashing.
3. Implement symptom screening for all employees and do not allow employees who exhibit symptoms to come to work. Screening tools available under Tools and Resources for Businesses at: <https://covid-19.acgov.org/recovery.page?>
4. Develop and implement cleaning and disinfecting protocols in the Site Specific Protection Plan.
5. Establish physical distancing guidelines and document in the Site Specific Protection Plan.
6. Ensure compliance with the [Alameda County Face Covering Order](#) by all persons in your place of business (clients, employees, suppliers, etc.). Both hair and barber service providers and clients will be required to wear a face covering—including during the entire service—unless they are specifically exempted from the face covering requirements in Health Officer Order No. 20-13, updated on July 15, 2020 or comply with specific requirements set forth below.

7. Comply with guidance issued by the [California Blueprint for Safer Economy](#), all [Local Health Officer Orders](#), and applicable federal, California, and local provisions for paid sick leave for individuals who cannot safely work for reasons related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
8. “Hair and Barber Service Providers” means Hair Salons and Barber Shops engaged in the cutting, styling, singeing, shampooing, arranging, dressing, curling, waving, chemical waving, hair relaxing, or dyeing the hair or applying hair tonics.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

In addition to preparing, posting, and implementing the [COVID-19 Site Specific Protection Plan](#) required by the Order, each owner, operator, manager, or supervisor of a hair and barber service must address each item below in the COVID-19 Site Specific Protection Plan.

1. Section 1 – Requirements for Hair and Barber Services:

1.1. Activities that involve the removal of clients’ face coverings are much higher risk for COVID-19 transmission and hair and barber service providers are prohibited from offering services that require removal of clients’ face covering, unless that client is exempt from wearing a face covering under the Health Order No. 20-13 updated on July 15, 2020, and any future amendment to that order (the “Face Covering Order”). Depending on the degree of community spread of COVID-19, such services that require the removal of clients’ face covering may be allowed at a future time.

1.1.1. Eyebrow waxing and threading, eyelash treatments, removal of facial hair, and facials are prohibited at this time.

1.2. Require hair and barber service providers to wear Face Coverings as provided in Health Order No. 20-13 updated on July 15, 2020, and any future amendment to that order (the “Face Covering Order”). Hair and barber service providers must wear face coverings and face shields at all times when they are providing a service to a client.

1.2.1. As required by the State of California, employers must provide face coverings to workers or reimburse workers for the reasonable cost of obtaining them.

1.2.2. As required by the State of California, employers must provide and ensure workers use all required protective equipment, including gloves and face shields.

1.3. Encourage clients to bring and use their own face coverings. Hair and barber service providers must provide clients with face coverings if they do not have one or refuse service to those who arrive without a face covering or who refuse to wear one and who are not otherwise exempt from wearing one under the Face Covering Order. The Health Officer’s Face Covering Order requires a written exemption from a medical professional, based on a medical condition, health concern, or disability.

1.3.1. Clients exempt from the Face Covering Order should be prohibited from speaking

as speaking puts hair and barber service providers at much higher risk of being exposed to the COVID-19 virus if the client is infected.

- 1.3.2. Keep disposable face tissues available for the client to use in the event they need to sneeze or cough while their face covering is off. The client must dispose of the tissue, so that the hair and barber service provider does not have to handle the contaminated tissue.
- 1.4. Develop a plan and implement daily COVID-19 symptom self-verifications for all hair and barber service providers as required by the COVID-19 Site Specific Protection Plan.
- 1.5. Hair and barber service providers must see clients by appointment only and must not provide services to walk-in clients at this time. Providers must stagger appointments to reduce reception congestion and ensure adequate time for proper cleaning and sanitation between each client visit.
- 1.6. Providers must call clients in advance of the appointment to:
 - 1.6.1. Confirm that the client has not experienced symptoms of, or been tested positive for, COVID-19 during the preceding 14 days, and has not come into contact with someone who has symptoms of, or who has been tested positive for, COVID-19 in the prior 14 days;
 - 1.6.2. Instruct the client to come alone (unless a parent or guardian needs to accompany a minor, or an attendant needs to accompany a client with disability); and
 - 1.6.3. Instruct them not to arrive at the facility more than 5 minutes before the appointment.
- 1.7. Clients who are feeling ill or who have exhibited symptoms of COVID-19 within 24 hours of their scheduled appointment must cancel or reschedule their appointment. Clients with COVID-19 may not attend appointments until they are no longer infectious, typically 10 days after symptom onset or, if no symptoms, 10 days after their first positive test. Repeat tests to show recovery are not recommended.
- 1.8. Conduct screening of all clients upon arrival. Clients who do not pass the screening must be refused service and their appointment should be rescheduled or canceled. Visit [here](#) for Screening Guidance for Employers.
- 1.9. Hair and barber service providers must wear disposable gloves when required for a particular service (e.g., chemical hair services), when cleaning and disinfecting, when removing used linens and towels, and when handling items

contaminated by body fluids. Wearing gloves is not a substitute for regular hand washing and sanitizing. Gloves must be used once with the same client; they should be [safely discarded](#) after use; and the hair and barber service provider must thoroughly wash their hands after removing and discarding the gloves. Additionally, the hair and barber service provider must wash their hands between clients and before donning a new pair of gloves.

- 1.10. Require clients to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer before any treatment or service.
- 1.11. Clients must wear a face covering at all times except when they are otherwise exempt from doing so under the Face Covering Order. The Health Officer's Face Covering Order requires a written exemption from a medical professional, based on a medical condition, health concern, or disability. Nothing in this Directive is intended to alter the obligations a hair and barber service provider may otherwise have under applicable law to provide reasonable accommodations to personnel or members of the public.
- 1.12. The hair and barber service must be conducted at least six feet from other hair and barber service providers and clients.
- 1.13. Develop a plan and implement cleaning and [sanitization](#) requirements that exceed usual professional requirements and standards, including:
 - 1.13.1. Comply with any existing or COVID-19 specific health-related regulatory requirements, such as those required by Cal/OSHA, the California Board of Barbering and Cosmetology, and California Health and Safety Code related to hair and barber services.
 - 1.13.2. Instruct all hair and barber service providers to wash their hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer (provided by the hair and barber service providers) including before and after touching high-touch surfaces such as cash registers or shared tools, equipment or materials, when they change or adjust their face covering or when there is a chance of contamination.
 - 1.13.3. Disinfect station counters, rolling carts, drawers, hand mirrors, tools used on clients, hot towel cabbies, and other surfaces between clients.
 - 1.13.4. All single use items, such as disposable wax collars, cotton balls/swabs, neck strips, and applicators, must be used once and immediately thrown away in a container with a tight-fitting lid.
 - 1.13.5. All appliances at workstations and treatment areas must be properly

- 2.2. If all or part of a hair and barber service establishment has been vacant or dormant during the Shelter in Place Order, then the hair and barber service provider must ensure plumbing is functioning and that water supply pipes are flushed before use. The following link provides guidance for flushing and preparing water systems at: <https://www.ebmud.com/water/about-your-water/water-quality/returning-service-after-prolonged-outage/>.
- 2.3. Make any necessary improvements to the ventilation of the establishment, including:
 - 2.3.1. Ensure HVAC system and air exchangers are serviced and functioning properly. Ensure all air filters are achieving optimal performance and are timely replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
 - 2.3.2. The hair and barber service establishment must increase the percentage of outdoor air through the HVAC system, disable demand-control ventilation controls that reduce air supply based on temperature or occupancy, and increase natural ventilation by opening windows and doors when environmental conditions and building requirements allow.
 - 2.3.3. Consider using portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) cleaners, upgrading the building's air filters to the highest efficiency possible, running the building ventilation system even when unoccupied to maximize ventilation, and making other modifications to increase the quantity of clean outside air and air circulation in all working areas.
- 2.4. Develop a plan and implement cleaning and sanitization requirements, including:
 - 2.4.1. Instruct hair and barber service providers that they are responsible for keeping their workspaces clean and sanitized. Each hair and barber service provider must clean and properly sanitize their workspace between clients and in between changes of hair and barber service providers.
 - 2.4.2. Ensure hair and barber service providers have access to cleaning supplies so that they can clean surfaces as needed on their own when custodial staff is not available.
 - 2.4.3. Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces in common areas routinely throughout the day and otherwise in accordance with the [COVID-19 Site Specific Protection Plan](#). Clean and disinfect all high touch surfaces and devices such as door handles, railings, faucets, toilets, elevator buttons, coat hooks, hangers, furniture, computers, telephones and other devices that are touched by people throughout the day.

- 2.4.4. Discontinue the use of shared food and beverage equipment in breakrooms (including shared coffee brewers).
- 2.4.5. Equip the reception area and all workstations with proper sanitation products, including disposable paper towels, hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes.
- 2.4.6. Disinfect station counters, rolling carts, drawers, hand mirrors, tools, and other surfaces between use for each client.
- 2.4.7. Where possible, do not clean floors by sweeping or other methods that can disperse pathogens into the air. Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter wherever possible.
 - 2.4.7.1. Client's hair must be safely disposed in the trash.
- 2.5. Where feasible, prohibit hair and barber service providers from sharing equipment, such as phones, tables, or computers. Any furniture, tools or equipment that must be used by more than one individual must be sanitized between uses in a manner that complies with the requirements contained in the [COVID-19 Site Specific Protection Plan](#). If hair and barber service providers must share a workspace, such as on alternating shifts, then the location must be sanitized in a manner that complies with the requirements contained in the [COVID-19 Site Specific Protection Plan](#) after each use.
- 2.6. Implement safety measures for clients, including:
 - 2.6.1. Services that require a client to remove their face covering are prohibited unless they are exempt from the Face Covering Order.
 - 2.6.1.1. Eyebrow waxing and threading, eyelash treatments, removal of facial hair, and facials are prohibited at this time.
 - 2.6.2. Clients must wear face coverings that attach with ear-loops in order to avoid interfering with services.
 - 2.6.3. Provide a clean smock or cape for each client.
 - 2.6.4. If appropriate for the service, ask clients to come to their appointments with freshly cleaned hair to minimize appointment time.
 - 2.6.5. Consider temporarily eliminating services that require lengthy time of blow-drying.

- 2.6.6. Prohibit clients from bringing additional people with them to their appointment with the following exceptions: (1) If the client receiving the service is a minor, they may bring an adult guardian, (2) if the client receiving the treatment is disabled they may bring an adult care provider; and (3) adult clients may bring their minor children if they have no other childcare options. Anyone entering the establishment must be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and must be included when determining whether the facility has reached its capacity limit.
- 2.6.7. Prohibit clients from congregating in the reception area or elsewhere in the facility. Ask clients to wait outside with their face covering on or in their cars before their appointments. In larger locations, reception areas should only have one client at a time or modify the area for adequate minimum six-foot physical distancing, including removing or blocking off chairs and sofas.
- 2.6.8. Hair and barber service providers must not see multiple clients at once (e.g., while one client's hair is drying, another receives a haircut). Services for one client must be completed before a new client is seen by the same hair and barber service provider.
- 2.6.9. Remove and prohibit the use of product samples.
- 2.6.10. Do not provide food and beverage to clients.
- 2.6.11. Remove portable items with surfaces that cannot be cleaned properly such as throw pillows, blankets or magazines. Consider removing or covering any other difficult to clean items that clients come into contact with.
- 2.6.12. Have a hard-surfaced, non-porous chair or large hard-surfaced or plastic basket or paper bag, or coat/hat rack for clients to put their clothes and other belongings on or in. Disinfect the chair, plastic basket, and coat/hat rack after every use. When hanging belongings ensure it is not in contact with another client's belongings.