

# Health Updates

## for Personal Service Settings 2016

Halton Region Health Department

## Protecting the safety, health and well-being of you and your customers

Halton Region is committed to supporting the safety, health and well-being of all residents. By working together with personal service settings, the Halton Region Health Department aims to protect our community and reduce the risk of infection for those who work in and visit these business locations.

### Personal service settings include:

- esthetic salons (e.g., spas offering manicures, pedicures, facials and waxes)
- hair salons and barbershops
- tattoo and body piercing studios
- places that offer electrolysis



### Safety tips for straight razor shaves

- The Halton Region Health Department recommends that blades used for shaving skin are single-use.
- Discard used blades immediately after use in an acceptable sharps container.
- Full sharps containers can often be returned to the pharmacy where the container was originally purchased. For more information on pharmacies that take back sharps, please visit our website at [halton.ca/takeitback](http://halton.ca/takeitback).
- The handle and cradle of the blade must be cleaned and disinfected after every use. Wash with soap and water. Fully dry. Then fully immerse in disinfectant (i.e., 70-90 per cent alcohol) for the correct amount of time.  
**Note:** Amount of time varies depending on type of disinfectant used.
- If you do not know which disinfectant to use, please dial 311 to speak to a health inspector.
- Keep the blade holder in clean and sanitary condition between uses.
- Blood does not need to be visible on instruments for an infection to occur. Razor re-use on skin can transfer Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV.

2015  
by the numbers

706  
inspections conducted in 2015

576  
establishments did not require  
a re-inspection

42  
new premises created in Halton  
in 2015



## Protect the health and safety of your clients

### What should I do if I accidentally cut a client?

Accidents can happen. If somebody gets cut with a sharp instrument, take these steps:

- Wear single-use gloves before touching the wound or blood-contaminated instruments.
- Wash the affected area with soap and water, then apply a skin antiseptic and cover with a clean dressing or bandage. Discontinue service to the affected area.
- Document all incidents and keep records on site for a minimum of one year and on file for five years.
- Advise the client to contact a doctor for an assessment.
- Clean and disinfect all potentially contaminated surfaces and instruments.

### What should I do if a client has a skin or wound infection?

If a client tells you that they have an infection, you must advise them to see a doctor. Only a physician should assess and treat infections.

### Record keeping

All operators offering invasive procedures (e.g., tattooing, piercing) must ensure they keep appropriate client records.

Records should include:

- the date of the procedure;
- the personal service worker's full name;
- the client's full name, mailing address and telephone number;
- details of the procedure;
- lot numbers and expiry dates of sterile instruments used in the procedure; and
- any incidents that may have occurred and corrective measures taken.

It is important to ensure records are kept on site for at least one year and on file for at least five years.



## Keep your personal service setting clean, safe and healthy

### Single-use-disposable versus reusable instruments

Many of the instruments used in personal service settings are "single-use-disposable" items such as nail files, buffers, sponges, lancets, etc. Single-use-disposable is a term given to a device designated by the manufacturer for single-use only. Single-use-disposable devices must be discarded after each client use – they must not be reprocessed (cleaned, disinfected or sterilized) for future use.

Other instruments such as scissors and metal tweezers are "reusable". This is a term given by the manufacturer to a device that can be re-used, after being reprocessed after each client use.