REVISED MAY 5, 2020

MINIMUM STANDARD HEALTH PROTOCOLS

☑ CHECKLIST FOR BARBER SHOP CUSTOMERS

The following are the minimum recommended health protocols for all barber shop customers. These minimum health protocols are not a limit on the health protocols that individuals may adopt. Individuals are encouraged to adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all Texans.

The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.

Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Individuals should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization.

Health protocols for customers:

- ☐ **Consistent with the actions taken by many individuals across the state, and because of the close proximity between individuals inside barber shops, consider wearing cloth face coverings (over the nose and mouth) except when it interferes with the service being provided. If available, individuals should consider wearing non-medical grade face masks. Wearing a mask is of utmost importance because of the close proximity between individuals in these settings.**
- ☐ Maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals. If such distancing is not feasible, other measures such as face covering, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, cleanliness, and sanitation should be rigorously practiced.
- ☐ Self-screen before going into a barber shop for any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
  - ☐ Cough
  - ☐ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - ☐ Chills
  - ☐ Repeated shaking with chills
  - ☐ Muscle pain
  - ☐ Headache
  - ☐ Sore throat
  - ☐ Loss of taste or smell
  - ☐ Diarrhea
  - ☐ Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit.
  - ☐ Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
- ☐ Wash or disinfect hands upon entering a barber shop and after any interaction with employees, contractors, other customers, or items in the nail salon.
- ☐ Wash or sanitize hands after the payment process.
- ☐ **Individuals aged 65 or older are at a higher risk of COVID-19. To the extent possible, avoid contact within 6 feet with individuals aged 65 and older. Individuals aged 65 and older should stay at home as much as possible.**

REVISED MAY 5, 2020

MINIMUM STANDARD HEALTH PROTOCOLS

☑ CHECKLIST FOR BARBER SHOPS

Effective May 8, 2020, barber shops may operate provided they can ensure at least 6 feet social distancing between operating work stations. Because of the proximity between individuals in these facilities, stringent compliance with these protocols is strongly recommended.

The following are the minimum recommended health protocols for barber shops choosing to operate in Texas. Barber shops may adopt additional protocols consistent with their specific needs and circumstances to help protect the health and safety of all employees, independent contractors, and customers.

The virus that causes COVID-19 can be spread to others by infected persons who have few or no symptoms. Even if an infected person is only mildly ill, the people they spread it to may become seriously ill or even die, especially if that person is 65 or older with pre-existing health conditions that place them at higher risk. Because of the hidden nature of this threat, everyone should rigorously follow the practices specified in these protocols, all of which facilitate a safe and measured reopening of Texas. The virus that causes COVID-19 is still circulating in our communities. We should continue to observe practices that protect everyone, including those who are most vulnerable.

Please note, public health guidance cannot anticipate every unique situation. Barber shops should stay informed and take actions based on common sense and wise judgment that will protect health and support economic revitalization. Barber shops should also be mindful of federal and state employment and disability laws, workplace safety standards, and accessibility standards to address the needs of both workers and customers.

Getting barber shop, employees, and contractors ready to open:

- ☐ Start by first offering less complex and time-consuming services such as haircutting and shaving services.
- ☐ Notify employees and contractors of all COVID-19 processes and procedures and require them to sign a statement acknowledging they understand and will adhere to the guidelines.
- ☐ Screen employees and contractors before coming into the barber shop:
  - ☐ Send home any employee or contractor who has any of the following new or worsening signs or symptoms of possible COVID-19:
    - Cough
    - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
    - Chills
    - Repeated shaking with chills
    - Muscle pain
    - Headache
    - Sore throat
    - Loss of taste or smell
    - Diarrhea
    - Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
    - Known close contact with a person who is lab confirmed to have COVID-19
  - ☐ Do not allow employees or contractors with new or worsening signs or symptoms listed above to return to work until:

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- In the case of an employee or contractor who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to work when all three of the following criteria are met: at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); and the individual has *improvement* in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and at least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*; or
- In the case of an employee or contractor who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and does not get evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, the individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to work until the individual has completed the same three-step criteria listed above; or
- If the employee or contractor has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to work before completing the above self-isolation period, the individual must obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis.

☐ Do not allow an employee or contractor with known close contact to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 to return to work until the end of the 14 day self-quarantine period from the last date of exposure (with an exception granted for health care workers and critical infrastructure workers).

☐ Consider implementing a similar policy for clients.

☐ For temperature checks, the preferred method is a no-contact thermometer, such as a forehead thermometer, if possible.

☐ Do not use a contact thermometer on multiple persons without disposable guards or disinfection between persons.

☐ Provide resources and a work environment that promote personal hygiene. For example, provide tissues, hand soap, alcohol-based hand sanitizers containing at least 60 percent alcohol, disinfectants, and disposable towels for licensees to clean their work surfaces.

☐ Disinfectants must come from this list: https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2

☐ Provide a place to wash hands with both hot and cold water with hand soap, disposable towels, and a no-touch trash can.

Before an appointment:

☐ Appointments should be scheduled to limit the amount of people in the shop.

☐ Walk-in clients should wait either in their own cars or outside with at least six feet separation between individuals.

☐ Do not allow clients to bring extra people to the appointment, such as children.

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- ☐ Only schedule the number of clients that will allow for social distancing of at least six feet from others.
- ☐ A sign should be posted at the entrance to the shop with a phone number that clients should call to schedule an appointment when they arrive outside the shop.
- ☐ Only bring clients into the building when the licensee is ready for them, to eliminate anyone needing to spend any time in the lobby or waiting area.
- ☐ Remove all unnecessary items such as magazines from the lobby or waiting area.
- ☐ Contactless payment is encouraged. Where not available, contact should be minimized.
- ☐ Signs should be posted at each entrance and eye-level at stations notifying clients that people with symptoms of COVID-19 or who have recently been exposed to someone with symptoms must reschedule their appointment.
- ☐ Do not provide services to a client if you have reason to believe that they are sick or have a contagious condition.
- ☐ If possible, provide face coverings for clients or ask them to wear one if services can be provided with it on.

Once inside the barber shop:

- ☐ Do not let clients touch/handle retail supplies.
- ☐ Require all clients to wash their hands upon entering the shop and before each treatment.
- ☐ Take measures to ensure that clients do not interact with each other in the shop.
- ☐ Face masks or fabric face coverings should always be worn by employers, employees, contractors, and clients while inside the salon/shop, even if individuals are practicing social distancing.
- ☐ Clients receiving services for which a mask may not be worn (shaving) should wear a mask or face covering before and after they receive the service.

Providing services:

- ☐ If gloves cannot be worn for a service, then hands must be washed with soap and water prior to providing services. Hands must be washed for a minimum of 20 seconds.
- ☐ If at any time an employee or contractor touches their face, nose, eyes, cell phone, door, credit card machine or any surface they have not sanitized, they must immediately change their gloves or rewash hands with soap and water.
- ☐ Use disposable supplies to keep from having to handle and disinfect multi-use supplies.
- ☐ Use disposable towels when possible and dispose of them after use.

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Continue to service clients with the cleaning and sanitation you already practice:

- ☐ If gloves are worn, they must be removed and properly disposed of immediately upon completion of the service.
- ☐ All surfaces must be wiped down and sanitized between use including computers, landline phones, etc.
- ☐ Full sanitization of workstations, shampoo bowls, chairs, etc., must occur after each client. This includes a complete wipe down with disinfectant cleaners or wipes of all surfaces touched and products used.
- ☐ Multi-use equipment and tools must be cleaned and disinfected before use on each client.
- ☐ Single-use equipment and tools must be discarded after use on a single client.
- ☐ Electrical equipment that cannot be immersed in liquid shall be wiped clean and disinfected before use on each client.
- ☐ All clean and disinfected tools and materials shall be stored in a clean, dry, debris free environment when not in use.
- ☐ Clean and disinfected tools and materials must be stored separate from soiled tools and materials. Ultraviolet electrical sanitizers are acceptable for use as a dry storage container. Non-barber related supplies must be stored in separate drawers or locations.
- ☐ Shampoo bowls and manicure tables shall be disinfected prior to use for each client.
- ☐ Floors shall be thoroughly cleaned each day. Hair cuttings must be swept up and deposited in a closed receptacle. Cosmetologists need to sweep up after each haircut.
- ☐ All trash containers must be emptied daily and kept clean by washing or using plastic liners.
- ☐ Non-disposable towels used during services must be immediately removed and placed in a disposable laundry receptacle (such as a bag that is discarded after use) at the conclusion of the service.
- ☐ If the salon uses a laundry basket or reusable bag, it must be sanitized between uses and should never be used for clean towels/capes.
- ☐ Towels must be washed in hot water and chlorine bleach and only clean towels shall be used on clients.
- ☐ Clean towels should only be handled by someone who has cleaned their hands immediately before touching the towels or someone who has a fresh pair of gloves.
- ☐ All on-site laundry rooms or laundry storage rooms must be fully sanitized daily.

Additional items:

- ☐ If an employee or contractor tests positive for COVID-19, immediately report that to the local health authority and provide notification to employees, contractors, and clients. The notification may be made via phone call, e-mail, or text. The notification to the local health authority and to employees, contractors, and clients must occur no later than 24 hours of receiving information of a positive test result.