



**Business  
Support**  
COVID-19

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# HAIRDRESSERS/ BARBERS CHECKLIST

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**Armagh City  
Banbridge  
& Craigavon**  
Borough Council

# HAIRDRESSERS/BARBERS CHECKLIST

This checklist is a quick guide to support Hairdressers/ Barbers reopening during Covid-19. There may be other controls necessary for you to implement in your business so it is important that you prepare a COVID-19 risk assessment to help you decide which actions you need to take just as you would for other health and safety matters. You should involve your staff in the risk assessment and ensure it is specific to your premises.

## Physical Distancing/ Movement of your Customers

Maintain a 2m (or 1m with risk mitigation where 2m is not viable, is acceptable) distance from customer to customer, between customer and staff and between staff to other staff. You should consider and set out the mitigations you will introduce in your risk assessments.

Any waiting areas should be closed or arranged so that it is possible to keep a minimum of 2m distance if space is available. Also consider social distancing in corridors and staircases.

Discard magazines, toys and other non-essential items in the waiting areas.

Stagger or extend opening and appointment times so that waiting areas have minimal congestion and to enable adequate distancing between workstations. This allows time to properly clean and disinfect between customer visits.

Encourage customers to attend their appointments alone.

Implement an appointment system, as this allows you to control the number of customers in your premises at one time. If a customer/ employee/ anyone in the household are displaying symptoms of Covid 19 they should not be on the premises. *See section on Other methods of reducing transmission for symptoms.*

If you continue to take walk-ins, be mindful of how many customers are in your waiting area. This will depend on the size of the hairdressing salon. It may be necessary to ask customers to wait outside the premises. Queues outside should be managed to ensure they do not cause risk to individuals or other businesses, for example by introducing queuing systems, using barriers and having staff direct clients.

Provide a secure area where social distancing is maintained for a client when services or treatments require development time, for example hair colouring.

Where the social distancing guidelines cannot be followed in full, in relation to a particular activity, businesses should consider whether that activity needs to continue for the business to operate, and if so, take all the mitigating actions possible to reduce the risk of transmission between their staff.

Keep the activity time involved as short as possible.

Use screens or barriers to separate clients from one another e.g. - at wash stations. If the practitioner is wearing a visor, screens will not provide additional protection between the practitioner and the individual. Everyone working in close proximity for an extended period of time must wear a visor. A screen will not be required between the practitioner and client when the practitioner is wearing a visor.

Use back-to-back or side-to-side working (rather than face-to-face) whenever possible.

Use a consistent pairing system, defined as fixing which workers work together, if workers have to be in close proximity.

If people must work face-to-face for a sustained period of time with more than a small group of fixed partners, you need to assess whether the activity can safely go ahead.

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## Hygiene

Employees must wash their hands thoroughly before and after each customer service, in addition to other general hand washing duties/times. In addition, hand sanitiser should be available. Place a hand sanitiser at the entrance for clients to use when entering and exiting the hairdresser salon.

Sanitise any reusable equipment including client chairs, treatment beds, and equipment, such as scissors, hair brushes, electrical equipment used after each appointment, and at the start and end of shifts.

Increased cleaning of high frequency contact surfaces such as handles, handrails, light switches, tables, and computers.

Use disposable gowns for each client. Where this is not possible, use separate gowns (and towels in the normal way) for each client, washing between use and disposing appropriately as required.

Encourage the use of contactless payment rather than cash.

Consider not doing 'dry cuts', only cutting hair once it has been thoroughly washed and cleansed.

Public toilets, portable toilets and toilets inside premises should be kept open and carefully managed to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

## Other methods of reducing transmission

In areas where a 2m distance cannot be maintained, use screens to create a physical barrier between people, for example at till points and in between each workstation

Any customer that exhibits signs of illness should make the salon aware of this before they attend their appointment. If a customer is showing any symptoms/ signs of illness they will be asked not to attend their appointment. This also applies to if anyone in his/her family household has been ill or is displaying symptoms of illness. This is also equally as important for employees. Employees must not attend work if the above applies.

Symptoms include:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature), or;
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual), or;
- anosmia - the loss or a change in your normal sense of smell (it can also affect your sense of taste)



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## Customer and Staff support

If social distancing or physical separation is not possible when providing close contact services, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the form of a visor will be required to mitigate the risk. There is no requirement for the client to wear any additional protection such as a mask or face covering, when the practitioner is wearing a visor.

Display COVID signage in the salon to inform staff and customers of the salons practices for preventing the transmission of Covid 19.

Provide additional training for employees on your Covid 19 control measures.

Maintain details of customers each day for test and trace purposes.

Give your customers reassurance, acknowledge and be aware of customer's apprehension.

## Freelancer/ Mobile Hairdresser

When visiting a client in their own home, the same rigorous hygiene regime applies with regards to personal hygiene, equipment, towels, and gowns.

Contact the client prior to the appointment to ensure that they or anybody else in their household has been ill or exhibiting signs/symptoms.

Request that during your visit, there are no other members of the family, children or animals in the same room as you and your client whilst carrying out the hair service.

For mobile operators, in the absence of handwashing facilities, you must use hand sanitiser.

Consider taking payment in advance of the appointment.

## Health and Safety

Carry out a risk assessment of the risks posed by COVID-19 in your workplace.

Check that everything in your salon or barbershop is in good working order, including:

- Water systems ([find out about legionella risks in the workplace](#))
- Heating and ventilation systems
- Electricity and gas supplies

## Note

At the time of the issue of this re-opening checklist, the guidance on Social Distancing remains at 2 metres, however this may be subject to potential change in Government regulation.

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## Useful Links

Keeping workers and clients safe during COVID 19 in close contact services-

[assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5ef2889986650c12970e9b57/Keeping-workers-and-clients-safe-during-covid-19-close-contact-services-230620.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5ef2889986650c12970e9b57/Keeping-workers-and-clients-safe-during-covid-19-close-contact-services-230620.pdf)

Help with signage can be downloaded from

[www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/business-information-advice-faqs/#healthprotectionsafetyadvice](http://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/business-information-advice-faqs/#healthprotectionsafetyadvice)

A template risk assessment for COVID-19 available from the HSENI website

[www.hseni.gov.uk/publications/example-covid-19-risk-assessment-template](http://www.hseni.gov.uk/publications/example-covid-19-risk-assessment-template)

It is advised to regularly check NI Business info website, for the latest information

[www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk](http://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk)

