

Student Handout

Bloodborne pathogens

Hairdressers and their clients can be exposed to viruses and bacteria that can cause diseases such as HIV, AIDS, and hepatitis. These diseases can be life-threatening and are more common than one might anticipate. If you cut the hair of 12 clients a day, you'll come into contact with someone with hepatitis C 40 times in one year.

Safety Tips

- ❑ Ensure that scissors and razors are disinfected. Consider using disposable razors.
 - Equipment can be disinfected using steam, antibacterial solutions, or antibacterial wipes.
 - Equipment should be disinfected after each customer, and left in an antibacterial solution overnight.
 - Equipment should be sterilized, particularly if the client's skin has been cut.
- ❑ Always wash your hands after contact with blood, or after removing gloves.
- ❑ Check your hands for cuts and abrasions before work and cover them with waterproof dressings.
- ❑ Wash your hands before and after eating, drinking, smoking, and going to the toilet.
- ❑ Treat all body fluids, such as blood, as potentially infectious.
- ❑ Make sure all sharp equipment (such as disposable razors) is disposed of in a safe manner.
- ❑ Record any incidents of possible infection transmission.
- ❑ Get medical attention immediately if you are exposed, in a transmittable way, to blood known to be infectious.

