

FACIALS

A facial is a multi-step procedure that involves cleansing, massaging, and treating specific conditions on a client's face. Facials are performed manually and/or using facial equipment or machines. The service usually involves the top layer of skin (epidermis) but may be more invasive, involving the use of equipment to remove whiteheads, blackheads and/or chemical peels (e.g., alpha hydroxyl products) that break the skin barrier.

INFECTION RISKS

Blood or body fluids do not need to be visible on equipment for microorganisms to enter the body at the procedure site and cause an infection. Infections can spread from:

- Contaminated and/or improperly reprocessed equipment
- Contaminated topical products
- Unclean hands touching the treated area

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

Equipment:

- Single-use gloves or finger cots are to be worn when touching non-intact skin (e.g., during extractions). Operators are to perform hand hygiene before and after use of gloves/finger cots
- Single-use items (e.g., sponges, sharps) are to be discarded after use
- Pre-packaged, single-use sterile needles or lancets used for extractions or to expose ingrown hairs are to be discarded in an approved sharps container after use. Tweezers are not to be used for extractions or to expose ingrown hairs
- Sharp ended comedone extractors are to be discarded in an approved sharps container or cleaned and sterilized between each use
- Reusable instruments and equipment (e.g., non-sharp ended comedone extractors, facial rollers and microdermabrasion tips) are to be cleaned and disinfected after use
- Cloth towels, sheets and linens are to be laundered or placed in a designated receptacle for items that are laundered after each use
- Single-use items (e.g., massage table paper coverings) are to be discarded after the service and are not to be reused
- Facial equipment is to be used, stored, maintained, cleaned, and disinfected and replaced according to manufacturer's instructions for use
 - Facial steamers are to be used and maintained in a sanitary way, and according to manufacturer's instructions. Water (preferably distilled) is to be replaced daily, at a

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minimum. Water in the reservoir of the unit is not to be topped up. The reservoir is to be emptied of water, cleaned and disinfected before refilling, as per manufacturer's instructions for use

- Microneedle rollers are required to be provided as individually pre-packaged, sterile. If these are purchased unsterilized, they must be sterilized before use
- Detachable microneedle roller heads are to be discarded into an approved sharps container after use, and the reusable handle is to be reprocessed using a high-level disinfectant
- Microneedle rollers that are a single unit (i.e., those where the roller head is not detachable from the handle) are to be discarded in an approved sharps container after use
- All sterile equipment is to be used before the expiry date. Do not use needles if there are no expiry dates and lot numbers
- Topical products (e.g., creams, lotions) are to be maintained, decanted and used in a sanitary way that avoids contamination of the remaining product (i.e., no "double dipping"). If products are decanted from a larger container, leftover, unused product is to be discarded

Operational Requirements:

- Facials should not be performed on a client if skin has a rash or is inflamed or infected. If this is not possible, service must be delayed until the area has healed
- If applicable, operators are to provide clients with aftercare information or special considerations following the treatment

Reprocessing Classification

High-Level Disinfection	Low-Level Disinfection	Single-Use, Disposable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microneedle roller handles (if roller head is detachable) • Comedone extractors • Glass and metal probes • Equipment that contacts non-intact skin (e.g., acne treatments, microdermabrasion tip, holder and hose) ‡ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tables, chairs, beds • Rigid containers used to hold dirty equipment (at end of day) • Service trays • Facial steamer machine and reservoir • Product dispensing tools/spatula • Bowls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lancets* • Needles* • Wooden applicators • Cotton pads or balls • Finger cots • Sponges • Single-use personal protective equipment (gloves, masks, gowns, eye protection) • Bed/pillow covers (paper) • Cloth linen and towels – laundered after each use • Microneedle rollers (if roller head and handle are a single unit) • Microneedle roller heads (detachable)

*These items are to be sterile before use

‡ If the equipment only contacts intact skin, then an intermediate-level disinfectant may be used

SOURCES

1. Health and Wellness, Alberta. (2002, June). Health Standards and Guidelines for Esthetics. Retrieved from <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/af4309b7-85fd-40e2-9f9a-6eeefba6d261/resource/66d43fe8-be2d-4528-92df-258b1d12c429/download/standards-esthetics.pdf>
2. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Guide to infection prevention and control in personal service settings. 3rd ed. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2019
3. Region of Peel. (2011, May 6). Facials. Retrieved from <http://www.peelregion.ca/health/pss/edm-facials.htm>

This fact sheet was adapted with permission from CIPHI Ontario and is based on PSS best practice recommendations, current reprocessing standards and legislation. It is not an inclusive list of all requirements. Operators are responsible to ensure that all services are offered according to local requirements, best practices and legislation.