

TECHNICAL ADVICE FOR TATTOO PARLOURS

Issued by Director General of Health

Within the framework of the Containment Strategy for the COVID-19 Pandemic, established by Council of Ministers Resolution no. 33-C/2020 of 30 April, it is important for the Directorate General for Health, as part of its duties, to issue an opinion concerning the measures for prevention and control of infection to be applied in tattoo parlours.

The nature of tattooing and similar services, such as piercing, involves the physical presence of tattooist and client, and proximity when providing the service; therefore, measures to prevent and control any infection need to be adopted to enable the activity to be resumed in safety.

Specifically, in the current epidemiological context of the COVID-19 Pandemic, it is important to bear in mind:



Compliance with the 5 General Measures for the COVID-19 Pandemic applies to any context. The following to be adopted:

1. Recommended physical distance of at least 2 meters and eviction of concentration of persons, at the entrance and within the establishments, in accordance with the legislation in force;
2. Personal hygiene, namely frequent hand washing and respiratory etiquette;
3. Cleaning and disinfection of spaces, under the terms of DGS guideline 014/2020;
4. Use of a mask, in accordance with DGS guideline 019/2020 and DGS Information Note No. 009/2020;
5. Self-monitoring of symptoms, with abstention from work if symptoms appear suggestive of COVID-19 (fever, cough or difficulty breathing).

In tattooing and similar services, such as piercing, the following DGS Guidelines and Standards also apply:

1. DGS Guideline No. 006/2020 on the preparation and updating of the Contingency Plans, with the implementation of procedures follow when faced with a suspected case of COVID-19.
2. DGS Standard 004/2020 for the definition of the procedures to be applied whenever there is a suspected case of COVID-19 in the establishments/institutions.

These establishments must ensure:

1. Dissemination and awareness of preventive measures, in particular:

- a) The 5 General Measures for the COVID-19 Pandemic, to all staff and users;

- b) The recommendations and procedures provided for in the Contingency Plan, to all employees.

2. Implementation of additional infection prevention and control measures in the Tattoo and Piercing Establishments

- a) The service room should preferably be individual, with one person treated at a time.
- b) Sessions must be scheduled in advance and they must be managed so as to avoid having customers in the waiting room.
- c) Avoid crossover between people and establish circulation routes.
- d) Use of a mask is mandatory for customers and professionals.
- e) Customers should, whenever possible, wait for the start of the activity outside from the premises, and comply with the recommended physical distance of at least 2 meters.
- f) When entering the establishment, customers shall sanitise their hands. For this, an alcohol-based solution dispenser should be available at access points.
- g) Discourage the presence of an accompanying person on the premises. If an escort is necessary, that person must remain in the waiting room wearing a surgical mask and comply with the distancing measures.
- h) The service areas must be sanitised and disinfected after each use.
- i) Aim to prepare in advance all material and equipment that may be used to reduce the circulation of people and the opening of drawers.
- j) Avoid having exposed material that is not necessary and regularly disinfect the rest;
- k) Aim to renew the air in the room at the end of each session, preferably by opening the windows. If there is equipment like air conditioning, this should never be switched on in air recirculation mode. There should be suitable and frequent maintenance of filtering systems.
- l) Wash and disinfect the client's chair and the space on the counter, between procedures.
- m) Protect surfaces in the treatment room that are more exposed to hand contact with disposable plastic barriers or aluminium foil (computer equipment, light handle, tray, chair control panel, rotary instruments, among others).
- n) Give preference to payment by means that avoid contact (for example, electronic payment, contactless automatic payment terminal).

3. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

- a) Staff shall be equipped with PPE in accordance with the task to be performed.
- b) The tattooist should wear a surgical mask, gloves, and a gown or disposable apron.
- c) For procedures closer to the face or airways, a visor or goggles and cap may also be used.
- d) When removing the PPE, after the session, you should first remove the gown/overall and remove the gloves last.
- e) All accessories such as rings, bracelets, necklaces, earrings and watches should be removed before starting the service.

4. Materials and Equipment

- a) Gloves, needles, blades and other devices for shaving hair must be single-use; disposable items, such as cotton wool and paper should be disposed of at the end of each tattoo session. Reusing these materials is forbidden.
- b) Reusable items must be disinfected before and after each use.
- c) Piercing items must be sterilized and opened in front of the customer.
- d) Piercing needles must be for single use and be opened in front of the customer;
- e) Piercing waste shall be placed in a container of its own and later collected for incineration.
- f) Collect all reusable used material and take it to the sterilisation room.
- g) Without prejudice to the applicable legislation and the recommendations which may be issued by the competent authorities in Portugal, this is the opinion of the Directorate General of Health.

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Informal translation into English and photo added by Safe Communities Portugal

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