

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 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:

- Work surfaces that come into contact with a client or service provider during the procedure must be cleaned and disinfected between each client. Alternatively, a single-use plastic cover can be used to cover the surface, which then must be discarded after each client, and the surface is cleaned and disinfected at the end of the day or should it become visibly soiled
- 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
- Reusable instruments and equipment (e.g., 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 the manufacturer's instructions for use (MIFU)

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- Facial steamers are to be used and maintained in a sanitary way, and according to the MIFU. Water (preferably distilled) is to be replaced daily, at a 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 the MIFU
- All sterile equipment is to be used before the expiry date. Do not use needles if there isn't an expiry date and/or lot number for the item
- Topical products (e.g., creams, lotions) are to be maintained, decanted and used in a sanitary way that avoids contamination of the remaining product. "Double dipping" is prohibited. If products are decanted from a larger container, leftover, unused product is to be discarded
- If hand-held machines are used for facials, the MIFU should clearly state adequate cleaning and disinfection requirements for the machine and its parts (internal tubing, handles, etc.)

Operational Requirements:

- The service provider checks the client's skin for open cuts, wounds, and signs of infection. If found, service is refused
- If applicable, operators are to provide clients with aftercare information or special considerations following the treatment

Reprocessing Classification

High-Level Disinfection	Intermediate-Level Disinfection	Low-Level Disinfection	Single-Use, Disposable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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"> • Spatula • Brushes (silicone, synthetic) • Jade/rose quartz facial rollers • Gua sha facial tool 	<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 • Bowls • Facial machine canisters 	<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

*These items are to be sterile before use † If the equipment only contacts intact skin, then an intermediate-level disinfectant may be used

Non-intact skin: Skin that has been compromised in some way, such as cracked, chapped, with cuts, abraded, or with a rash)

Intact skin: Skin that is whole, unbroken, and free from cuts, abrasions, rashes, or lesions

SOURCES

1. 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

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.