



COVID-19 Guidance for Body Art Studios

On May 12, 2020, Governor Kemp issued Executive Order 05.12.20.02, “Reviving a Healthy Georgia,” which updates the operating requirements for Body Art Studios. Body Art Studios must comply with the Order’s requirements for non-critical infrastructure businesses, as well as additional requirements applicable to Body Art Studios. The specific directives of the Order are reproduced below in plain text. Additional recommendations and clarification from the Georgia Department of Public Health are provided in italics.

Mitigation Measures Specifically Applicable to Body Art Studio Operations

The Order requires that Body Art Studios permitted pursuant to Code Section 31-40-2 *shall* implement the following measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, as practicable.

- Allow only one patron per service provider in the business at any one time. *Limit individuals within the establishment to those receiving services; clients should be discouraged from bringing additional guests for purposes of observing the procedure being performed.*
- Require patrons to wait in their vehicle or outside the establishment until the service provider is ready, or patrons may wait in a waiting area inside the facility provided that all seating within the waiting area is spaced so that no waiting patron is seated within six (6) feet of any other person and all waiting patrons are required to wear face coverings.
- Stagger use of every-other workstation or space workstations more than ten (10) feet apart, whichever option is practicable given the facility’s configuration.
- Stagger work schedules so that no more than 50% of the normal number of Workers providing services will be in the business at a time.
- Require all Workers to wear Personal Protective Equipment as available and appropriate to the function and location of the Worker within the business location.
 - *All Workers within the studio, whether or not they perform body art procedures, must wear face coverings that cover the mouth and nose. Instructions for making face coverings can be found on the CDC’s website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/DIY-cloth-face-covering-instructions.pdf>.*
 - *Prior to, during, and after a body art procedure (including tattooing, piercing, and microblading), the body artist must wear gloves and must use aseptic techniques to ensure gloves are not contaminated.*

- *In addition to face covering and glove use, artists performing a body art procedure (tattooing, piercing and microblading) should also consider wearing eye goggles and/or face shields to further reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19.*
- *All PPE must be changed at the completion of each body art procedure.*
- *Body Art Studios are governed by local county board of health rules; please be sure to also consult local rules pertaining to PPE requirements.*
- Sanitize all equipment, chairs, and tables used by Workers and patrons between each client visit. *All surfaces of equipment and furnishings that come into contact with the artist or client during a procedure must be covered with a protective, impermeable barrier. Barriers must be single-use and discarded after each body art procedure. All surfaces used in the body art procedure must be cleaned and disinfected with an EPA-registered tuberculocidal disinfectant prior to and after the procedure.*
- Utilize disposable materials and supplies as much as practicable according to state rules and regulations. *Body Art Studios are governed by local county board of health rules; the local county board of health inspects and permits tattoo studios under the rules and regulations governing their operation, maintenance and safety. The local county board of health has the legal authority to suspend, revoke or consider a voluntary closure if an Imminent Health Hazard exists in a permitted facility.*
- Train all Workers on additional measures both verbally and in writing.
- Provide services by appointment only. Walk-in patrons should not be allowed. *Perform all body art procedures, including tattooing, piercing, or microblading, by appointment only.*
- Allow one parent to be within a facility if their minor child is receiving a haircut. *A parent should also be allowed in the facility when a body art procedure is performed on a minor.*
- Patrons should be required to sanitize their hands upon entering the facility and before any treatment.
- Provide hand sanitizer or sanitization wipes to patrons upon arrival.
- Post signs at the entrance and at eye-level at each workstation stating that any patron who has symptoms of COVID-19 must reschedule their appointment.

Statewide Mitigation Measures for Non-Critical Infrastructure Employees

The following requirements are found in Executive Order 05.12.20.02 and are applicable to all businesses and organizations that are not considered Critical Infrastructure, including Body Art Studios.

- Screen and evaluate workers who exhibit signs of illness, such as a fever over 100.4°F, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell. *While it is strongly recommended that each facility have an infrared thermometer on hand to screen employees, it is not required. Workers may screen themselves for fever with their own thermometers prior to arriving at work.*
- Require workers who exhibit signs of illness to not report to work or to seek medical attention. *An employee with known or suspected COVID-19 must follow CDC guidelines to self-isolate for at least for at least ten days after symptom onset and end isolation only after symptoms have shown progressive improvement and the employee has been fever-free for three consecutive days without medication before returning to work.*
- Require hand washing or sanitation at appropriate places within the business location.
- Prohibit gatherings during hours of operation. *No more than ten non-cohabitating persons may be present at a single location if six feet of distance cannot be maintained between each person.*
- Permit workers to take breaks and meals outside, in their office or personal workspace, or in such other areas where Social Distancing is attainable.
- Implement teleworking as practicable.
- Implement staggered shifts as practicable.
- Deliver intangible services remotely as practicable.
- Discourage workers from using other workers' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment (*such as pens, pencils, etc.*).
- Prohibit handshaking and any unnecessary person-to-person contact.
- For retailers and service providers, provide for alternative points of sale outside of buildings, including curbside pick-up or delivery of products and/or services if an alternate point of sale is permitted under Georgia law.
- For retailers and service providers, open sales registers must be at least six feet apart.
- Point of sale equipment should be frequently cleaned and sanitized. *Registers and point of sale machines should be cleaned and sanitized between uses by different employees.*
- If practicable, provide disinfectant and sanitation products for workers to clean their workspace, equipment, and tools.

- If practicable, increase physical space between workers' worksites to at least six feet. *Where possible, stagger workstations to avoid employees standing next to each other. Where six feet of separation is not possible, consider spacing options that include other mitigation efforts with increased frequency of cleaning and sanitizing surfaces.*
- Post a sign on the door stating that employees who have a fever or other symptoms of COVID-19 shall not enter the facility. *According to current CDC guidance, symptoms of COVID-19 may include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell. Contact your local public health department if you have a worker who exhibits symptoms of COVID-19.*
- Enhance sanitation of the workplace as appropriate. *Body Art Studios must practice enhanced routine cleaning and disinfection in common areas (client procedure chairs/tables, restrooms, client waiting area) and frequently touched surfaces (tablets/electronic devices, doorknobs, photo books, faucets) with a cleaner and a United States Environmental Protection Division (EPA)-registered disinfectant that is appropriate for the surface, following label instructions. A list of approved disinfectants from the Environmental Protection Agency that are shown to be effective against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, can be found here: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>. An alternative disinfectant can be used: 1/3 cup of unscented bleach added to 1 gallon of water. Do not mix bleach with other cleaning and disinfection products together because this can cause fumes that are very dangerous to breathe in. Schedule closure time for disinfection.*
- Disinfect common surfaces regularly. *Clean and disinfect restrooms regularly, check restrooms based on the frequency of use, and ensure adequate supply of soap and paper towels is available. Clean and disinfect frequently touched office surfaces minimally once during operation and before opening. General CDC guidance on cleaning and disinfecting can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/reopen-guidance.html>.*
- Hold all meetings and conferences virtually as practicable. *Encourage video conferencing/email for services such as troubleshooting, consultations, and aftercare information.*
- Place notices that encourage hand hygiene at the entrance to the facility and in other areas where they are likely to be seen. *Post signs that encourage [washing hands frequently with warm soapy water](#) for at least 20 seconds at entrances, restrooms and in other visible areas. Provide hand sanitizer for use by guests and patrons, including contactless hand sanitizing stations when available.*
- Increase physical space between workers and patrons. *Except when an artist is performing a procedure on a client.*

- Enforce social distancing of non-cohabitating persons while present on the Body Art Studio's leased or owned property.
- Frequently disinfect Personal Identification Number ("PIN") pads, PIN entry devices, electronic signature capture, and any other credit card receipt signature capture devices if in use.
- If the Body Art Studio engages volunteers or has members of the public participate in activities, prohibit volunteering or participation in activities for persons diagnosed with COVID-19, having exhibited symptoms of COVID-19, or having had contact with a person that has or is suspected to have COVID-19 within the past fourteen (14) days.

References

https://www.safepiercing.org/psa_covid-19.php
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/return-to-work.html>
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