

# Erie County Department of Health

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## GUIDELINES FOR TEMPORARY BODY ART ESTABLISHMENTS

The following guidelines have been developed to help temporary body art establishments operate in a safe and sanitary manner. Guidelines are based on current Erie County Body Art Regulations.

### LICENSING

- A Temporary Body Art Establishment is defined as a body art establishment that operates at a fixed location in conjunction with a single event or celebration.
- An application for a Temporary License must be submitted a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the event.
- All temporary body art establishments must obtain and post a valid Temporary License from the Erie County Department of Health. The license is only valid for the duration of the event or celebration.

### OPERATOR REQUIREMENTS

- All tattoo/body piercing artists must provide a certificate, issued within the current year, showing completion of a bloodborne pathogen course approved by the Department.

### PROHIBITIONS

- It shall be unlawful for any person to perform body art on any person under 18 years of age without the presence, written consent and proper identification of the person's parent or legal guardian.

### SITE REQUIREMENTS

- Body art must be conducted within a building or structure which provides protection against the elements and dust, and is free of insects, rodents, other nuisances or pests.
- The area where body art is performed must be separated by a partition from any retail sales or other such activity which may cause potential contamination of work surfaces.
- Adequate lighting and ventilation must be provided at the work location.
- Smooth, nonabsorbent, easily cleanable flooring must be provided. Acceptable flooring includes tarps, concrete, blacktop or linoleum.
- Toilet facilities shall be adequate, conveniently located and available during working hours for staff of the body art establishment.

### WASTE DISPOSAL

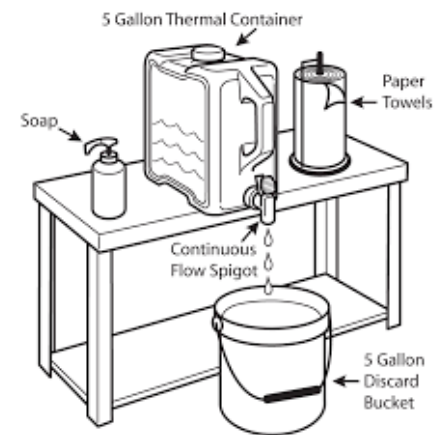
- Containers for biohazardous waste (bandages, gauze, gloves etc.) must be closable, leak-proof and labeled to identify the contents as a biohazard. Containers for needles and other sharp objects must also be puncture resistant. These wastes must be transported by an infectious waste transporter to a disposal site approved by the PA Department of Environmental Protection.
- A leak-proof refuse container with a tight-fitting lid must be provided at each establishment for non-infectious waste and must be emptied at least daily.
- All waste water must be disposed of in a sanitary sewage system. DO NOT dump waste water down storm sewers or onto the ground surface.

## EQUIPMENT CLEANING

- Single use disposable needles, tubes, forceps and other instruments shall be used when possible.
- Any non-disposable instruments or equipment must be thoroughly cleaned and sterilized via an ultrasonic cleaner and autoclave.
- If utilizing non-disposable instruments or equipment, cleaning must be done on site or in a licensed establishment. All equipment must be cleaned, packaged in self-sealing autoclave bags and sterilized after each use.
- Sterilized equipment shall be dated with an expiration date not to exceed six months. A chemical color indicator or temperature sensitive autoclave tape must be included in each load. The most recent spore test (within 30 days of event) must be provided.
- Sterile equipment and instruments must be stored in a condition so as to maintain their sterility.

## HYGIENE

- Smoking, eating and drinking are not permitted within the area where body art is performed.
- Each establishment must be provided with a hand washing station that includes: warm, clean water, soap, paper towels, and a wastewater container.
- In a convention type setting, two side-by-side booths may share a hand washing station. The station must be easily accessible by both parties.
- Hands must be washed prior to donning single use gloves for procedure, as well as after the body art is performed. Disposable gloves must be worn for any procedure involving contact with a customer's skin, hair or other body tissue.
- **No person with boils, infected wounds, open sores, respiratory infection, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or other communicable condition may work in the body art area. Artists cannot operate under the influence of drugs or alcohol.**



## INK AND JEWELRY

- Ink for tattooing must be nontoxic, free from adulteration, from a safe source, and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only sterilized jewelry made of ASTM F136 compliant titanium or ASTM F138 compliant steel, solid 14 karat or 18 karat white, rose or yellow gold, niobium, or platinum shall be placed in a new piercing. Jewelry not meeting these standards, or that is damaged, scratched, not designed for body piercing, or externally threaded 16 gauge or thicker cannot be used for an initial piercing. Mill certificates for jewelry must be available.

## EDUCATION & RECORDS

- Every customer must be informed about the possible risks associated with the tattoo or piercing requested.
- Verbal and written instructions for care of the tattooed or pierced site shall be provided. Aftercare must be appropriate for the area being pierced. Instructions must include wound care, signs and symptoms of infection, physical restrictions, when to seek medical treatment, and the name and contact information for the artist.
- A record of each body art procedure shall be maintained for each customer.