



PPE, Exemptions and Fines

With the latest round of announcements from the government and with the introduction of the NHS Test and Trace system, the guidance for salons has been tightened. As of the 24th September, it is now law that masks and visors/goggles must be worn in all close contact services.

A wider range of leisure and entertainment venues, services provided in community centres, and close contact services will be subject to the COVID-19 Secure requirements in law and fines of up to £10,000 will be given for repeated breaches.

The current exemptions for PPE on the government website do not apply to those working in close contact services. This has been confirmed to us by The Health & Safety Executive. We contacted them directly to find out whether there were any exemptions for close contact employees, we received the following email from the Health & Safety Executive:

“Facemasks worn to protect others from the spread of infection are not personal protective equipment and are required to be worn by public health regulations and government guidance for particular settings. The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings in a Relevant Place) (England) Regulations 2020 do not apply to nail, beauty, hair salons and barbers.

“To prevent the spread of infection from themselves to their clients, people providing close contact services are advised to wear a type II facemask and visor in addition to good hand hygiene and surface cleaning. The close contact services guidance does not make any allowance for people who do not want not wear type II facemask due to illness, impairment, disability or distress.

“Enhancing the package of different measures that help prevent the spread of infection, such as increased ventilation and barrier screens, may enable certain close contact services to continue to be provided. However, without an effective range of measures to control the spread of infection, people who are not wearing a type II facemask should not be providing close contact services that involve them being in their client’s breathing zone for extended periods and/or working face-to-face with clients.”

So, this confirms that although there are exemptions easily available for clients/consumers there are none for staff.

NHS Test and Trace

As of the 24th September you must display an official NHS QR code poster, so that customers and visitors can ‘check-in’ using this option as an alternative to providing their contact details. Official NHS QR posters can be generated via the UK government website. Clients don’t have to use the NHS QR code but you must provide one.

Any business that is found not to be compliant with these regulations will be subject to financial penalties. It is vital that you comply with these regulations to help keep people safe, and to keep businesses open.

Your booking system should be sufficient in taking your clients details. If you do not use a booking system, then you will need to start taking these details by hand. You should refuse entry to those who refuse to provide contact details.

The details you need to collect are:

- the name of the customer or visitor. If there is more than one person, then you can record the name of the 'lead member' of the group (of up to 6 people) and the number of people in that group
- a contact phone number for each customer or visitor, or for the lead member of a group of people. If a phone number is not available, you should ask for their email address instead, or if neither are available, then postal address
- date of visit, arrival time and, where possible, departure time
- the name of the assigned staff member, if a customer or visitor will interact with only one member of staff (for example, a hairdresser). This should be recorded alongside the name of the customer or visitor

Local Restrictions

Several areas in England currently have local restrictions placed on them. You can see a full list of these areas on the UK government website.

The only area that has current close contact services restrictions is Bolton. For now, salons in Bolton cannot carry out treatments on the face. We will update you on this once it is lifted.