

UNDERSTANDING



BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS

By Prestige School of Esthetics

A SAFETY GUIDE FOR ESTHETICS AND BEAUTY PROFESSIONALS

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Chapter 1: What Are Blood-Borne Pathogens?

Chapter 1: What Are Blood-Borne Pathogens?

Blood-borne pathogens (BBPs) are infectious microorganisms found in human blood and certain body fluids that can cause disease in humans. These pathogens can live in dried blood for days and remain dangerous. Examples of Blood-Borne Pathogens:

- Hepatitis B (HBV)
- Hepatitis C (HCV)
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

These viruses affect the liver and immune system, often with life-altering consequences.

Chapter 2: Common Diseases to Watch For

1. Hepatitis B (HBV)

- Attacks the liver
- Can survive outside the body for 7+ days
- Vaccine-preventable

2. Hepatitis C (HCV)

- Often chronic and asymptomatic
- Spreads through blood-to-blood contact
- No vaccine

3. HIV

- Weakens the immune system
- Leads to AIDS if untreated
- No cure, but treatment is available





Chapter 3: How Pathogens Spread

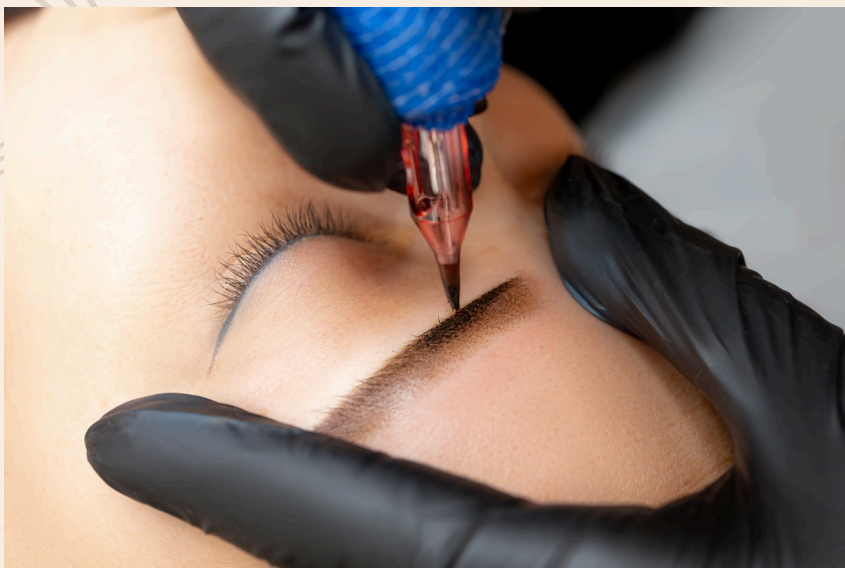
Pathogens don't spread randomly—they follow specific routes of transmission:

Direct Transmission

- Blood-to-blood contact
- Open wounds
- Mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth)

Indirect Transmission

- Contaminated tools (e.g., razors, needles)
- Improperly disinfected surfaces
- Sharps injuries from used instruments



Chapter 4: Risks in Beauty & Esthetics

You may not think of facials or waxing as high-risk, but even micro-cuts or unnoticeable bleeding can transmit infections.

High-Risk Services:

- Microneedling
- Dermaplaning
- Waxing and threading
- Electrolysis
- Tattooing and permanent makeup (PMU)

Every esthetic procedure that breaks the skin carries potential exposure risks.

Chapter 5: Universal Precautions & PPE

Universal Precautions

This means treating all blood and bodily fluids as if they are infected.

Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Gloves (non-latex or nitrile preferred)
- Face masks (for sprays or splashes)
- Protective eyewear (optional but recommended)
- Aprons or smocks

Always wear PPE before contact and dispose of it immediately after use.





Chapter 6: Cleaning, Disinfection & Sterilization

3 Levels of Decontamination:

1. Sanitization – Removes visible dirt (soap & water)
2. Disinfection – Destroys most pathogens (alcohol, Barbicide)
3. Sterilization – Kills all microbial life (autoclave, dry heat)

Tools & Equipment:

- Use disposables when possible
- Store clean tools in closed, labeled containers
- Use disinfectants approved by Health Canada (DIN number)

Chapter 7: Handling Exposure Incidents

What if You're Exposed?

1. Stop immediately
2. Do wash the area with soap and water
3. Do not Disinfect the area
4. Report the incident to your supervisor (if applicable).
5. Check patient records and see if there is a risk.
6. Seek medical advice

Keep a written record of the incident, even if it seems minor. Disinfecting the area, can help spread the pathogen.



Chapter 8: Your Legal & Professional Responsibilities

In Canada and many other regions, beauty professionals are legally required to follow infection prevention protocols. Failure to do so can result in fines, business closure, or client lawsuits.

Responsibilities:

- Stay updated on training at Prestige School of Esthetics
- Keep a clean, safe workspace
- Follow Health Canada regulations
- Educate your staff or coworkers
- Post your safety certifications where clients can see them



Conclusion

Infection control is not an option—it's your duty. As a beauty professional, you are also a protector of public health. With proper training, consistent habits, and attention to detail, you can confidently provide beauty services in a safe, hygienic environment.

Your knowledge of blood-borne pathogens isn't just for passing a course—it's for saving lives, building trust, and elevating the entire beauty industry.



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US.

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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CERTIFIED FOR THIS COURSE TAKE THE TEST

EMAIL: ENROLL@PRESTIGESCHOOL.CA AND REQUEST TO BOOK YOUR 1 HOUR TEST.

\$49 FEE APPLIES. DIGITAL CERTIFICATION ISSUED.

SEALED CERTIFICATION ADDITIONAL \$20.00

DIGITAL REPLACEMENTS \$10, SEALED REPLACEMENTS \$20

