Ask You're Worth!t WSCC

# Toolbox Talk — Instructor Guide for Hair Stylists

## Bloodborne Pathogens **Topic Overview**

Hair stylists can be exposed to blood-borne pathogens and therefore need to be aware of how these pathogens are transmitted, how to protect themselves, and how to protect their clients. Hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV are blood-borne diseases. They are only spread through direct contact with the body fluids, particularly blood, of an infected person. They are not spread through casual contact such as hand-shaking, or using the same facilities (toilets, sinks, telephones, dishes). Workers are at risk of infection if infected body fluids come in contact with the tissues lining your eyes, nose, mouth, or with a cut in your skin, or if you are cut with an implement that is contaminated with infected blood.

## Demonstration and **Discussion Topics**

- ☐ **Discuss** the way that blood-borne diseases are transmitted, and the types of diseases that are present..
- ☐ **Tour the shop** with the students, pointing out these hazards.
- ☐ **Distribute** the student handout.
- ☐ **Review** the safety tips.
- ☐ **Explain** what can be done in the workplace to minimize the risk of blood-borne disease (e.g. disposable equipment, routine sterilization).
- ☐ **Make it real.** Tell at least two stories of injuries from your experience, or use the following examples:tv

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AGENTS PATHOGÈNES TRANSMISSIBLES PAR LE SANG ▪

*"Hair stylists can be exposed to bloodborne pathogens and therefore need to be aware of how these pathogens are transmitted, how to protect themselves, and how to protect their clients."*

- A hair stylist accidentally nicked a client. After cleaning the small wound without gloves, the stylist remembered that she had a small fresh cut on her finger. She contracted hepatitis C.
- When performing a manicure on a customer, the customer noticed what looked like dried blood on the hairdresser's utensil. The customer was later treated for a blood borne infection caused by equipment not being correctly cleaned and disinfected. While the worker was not injured, it was the worker's responsibility to ensure the safety of those around them.

☐ **Instruct** the students to identify and report any safety concerns.

☐ **Discuss** the attitude that "it won't happen to me". Remind them that an injury can and will happen if they take shortcuts or are careless.

☐ Encourage them to **ASK** questions.

☐ **Answer** any questions or concerns they might have.

☐ **Set a good example** by working safely at all times.

# Resources

☐ **Bloodborne pathogens in the workplace (Video)** WorkSafeBC Library Call number V9

☐ **HIV/AID and Hepatitis B and C – Preventing exposure at work**
www.worksafebc.com/publications/high_resolution_publications/assets/pdf/bk38.pdf



WSCC Workers' Safety & Compensation Commission | ᐃᖅᑲᓇᐃᔭᖅᑎᓄᑦ ᐊᑦᑕᓇᖅᑐᓂᒃ ᐊᒻᒪ ᓇᓪᓕᐅᒃᑯᒪᓂᒃ ᖃᐅᔨᓴᖅᑎᑦ
wscc.nt.ca 1.800.661.0792 wscc.nu.ca 1.877.404.4407

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