

March 2013 Stylist article

With the cold and flu season in full swing, it is probably a good time to review safety measures designed to protect consumers and Board licensees from illness.

To protect consumers, establishment and schools are prohibited from knowingly allowing a person afflicted with a transmittable infection or parasitic infestation to serve clients or train in the establishment or school. Similarly, to protect employees, establishment and schools are prohibited from knowingly allowing a licensee or student to work upon a person with a transmittable infection or parasitic infestation.

Infections or parasitic infestations include the following:

- Cold, influenza or other respiratory illness accompanied by a fever
- Strep throat
- Pink eye
- Whooping cough
- Chicken pox
- Mumps
- Tuberculosis
- Impetigo or bacterial skin infection
- Head lice
- Scabies or crabs

Board regulations also prohibit barbering and cosmetology licensees from massaging a person if the skin is inflamed, broken, or if an infection is present. Therefore, if a client has a cut or an open wound, the operator must, by law, refuse the service in order to protect themselves and other clients.

To further protect consumers, licensees must also thoroughly wash their hands with soap and water or an equally effective cleansing agent immediately before serving each client.