



Interim Guidance for Tattoo Business Settings (March 26, 2021)

Governor Cooper has implemented a phased approach to slowly lift restrictions while combatting COVID-19, protecting North Carolinians and working together to recover the economy.

Businesses and organizations should follow the guidelines below to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Guidelines for Conducting Business: Any scenario in which many people gather together poses a risk for COVID-19 transmission. All businesses and agencies where groups of people gather in an enclosed space should create and implement a plan to minimize the opportunity for COVID-19 transmission at their facility. The guidance below will help tattoo businesses reduce the spread of COVID-19 in their communities.

In addition to the requirements below, certain businesses **must follow** Closure Periods or Stay at Home Orders, when they are in effect. For more information on any requirements that are currently in effect and how this applies to your business, please visit [Business Closure Periods and Stay at Home Restrictions](#).

This guidance covers the following topics:

- Social Distancing and Minimizing Exposure
- Cloth Face Coverings
- Cleaning and Hygiene
- Monitoring for Symptoms
- Protecting Vulnerable Populations
- Combatting Misinformation
- Water and Ventilation Systems
- Additional Resources

Social Distancing and Minimizing Exposure

[Social distancing](#) is a key tool to decrease the spread of COVID-19. Social distancing (“physical distancing”) means keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home. Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms’ length) from other people; do not gather in groups; stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings.

Tattoo businesses are required to:

- Limit occupancy to no more than 100 percent of the stated fire capacity (24 per 1,000 square feet if there is not a fire code number readily available) AND ensure sufficient social distancing with at least 6-foot separation between patrons.

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- Post the reduced “Emergency Maximum Capacity” in a noticeable place. [Sign templates](#) are available in English and Spanish on NC DHHS COVID-19 response site.
- Arrange or use seating so that customers are separated from one another by six (6) feet.
- Mark six (6) feet of spacing in lines at point of sale and in other high-traffic areas for customers, such as at cash registers.

It is recommended that tattoo businesses:

- Post signage at the main entrance that reminds people to use face coverings and wash hands. [Know Your W's](#) sign templates are available in English and Spanish on the NC DHHS COVID-19 response site.
- Space areas where services will be provided at least 6 feet apart. Designate which chairs are to be used, and which may not be used, if chairs are less than 6 feet apart.
- Close your waiting room, all common seating areas, and lounge areas.
 - Consider requiring appointment for customers.
 - Provide alternate notification procedures for customers where they can wait in the car or outside until their appointment.
- Consider staggering appointment times so that social distancing is achievable, especially if limited resources are available.
- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, or other methods. Do not open windows and doors if they pose a safety or health risk to people using the facility.

Cloth Face Coverings

Tattoo Businesses are **required** to:

- Have all workers wear a face unless the worker states that an exception applies.
- Have all customers wear a face covering when they are inside the establishment, unless the customer states that an exception applies.
 - Customers may take off their Face Coverings if they are receiving a facial treatment, shave, or other services on a part of the head which the Face Covering covers or by which the Face Covering is secured.
- Visit NC DHHS [COVID-19 response site](#) for more information about the face covering [guidance](#) and access sign templates that are available in English and Spanish.

It is strongly recommended that tattoo businesses:

- Provide cloth face coverings for employees and ask them to properly launder using hot water and a high heat dryer between uses.
- Provide disposable face coverings to customers to wear while in the establishment.

Cleaning and Hygiene

Washing hands with soap for 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer reduces the spread of transmission.

Tattoo Businesses are **required** to:

- Perform ongoing and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas (e.g., doors, doorknobs, rails, faucet handles, toilet handles) with an [EPA approved disinfectant for SARS-CoV-2](#) (the virus that causes COVID-19), and increasing frequency disinfection during peak times or high customer density times and disinfect all shared objects (e.g., payment terminals, tables) between use.

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- Disinfect equipment and furniture in service areas between customers.

It is recommended that tattoo businesses:

- Provide, whenever available, hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol) at the entrance and other areas. Systematically and frequently check and refill hand sanitizers (at least 60% alcohol) and assure soap and hand drying materials are available at sinks.
- Require handwashing of staff immediately before each and every appointment.
- Provide tissues and trash containers for proper cough and sneeze hygiene.

Monitoring for Symptoms

Employees should be encouraged to self-monitor for symptoms such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath.

If they develop symptoms, they should notify their supervisor and stay home. More information on [how to monitor for symptoms](#) is available from the CDC.

Tattoo businesses are **required** to:

- Have a plan in place for immediately removing employees from work if symptoms develop.
- Employees who have symptoms when they arrive at work or become sick during the day should immediately be separated from other employees, customers, and visitors and sent home.
- Conduct daily [symptom](#) screening (standard interview questionnaire) ([English](#) | [Spanish](#)) of employees at entrance to workplace with immediately sending symptomatic workers home to [isolate](#).
- Post signage at the main entrance requesting that people who have been symptomatic with fever and/or cough not enter, such as [Know Your Ws/Stop if You Have Symptoms](#) flyers (English - [Color](#), [Black & White](#); Spanish - [Color](#), [Black & White](#)).

It is recommended that tattoo businesses:

- Establish and enforce sick leave policies to prevent the spread of disease, including:
 - o Enforcing employees staying home if sick.
 - o Encouraging liberal use of sick leave policy.
 - o Expanding paid leave policies to allow employees to stay home when sick.
- [Per CDC guidelines](#), if an employee has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is presumed positive by a medical professional due to symptoms, the employee should be excluded from work until:
 - o No fever for at least 24 hours since recovery (without the use of fever-reducing medicine AND
 - o Other symptoms have improved (e.g., coughing, shortness of breath) AND
 - o At least 10 days have passed since first symptoms

***A test-based strategy is no longer recommended except to discontinue isolation or precautions and employers should not require documentation of a negative test before allowing a worker to return.**
- [Per CDC guidelines](#), if an employee has been diagnosed with COVID-19 but does not have symptoms, they should remain out of work until 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 diagnostic test, assuming they have not subsequently developed symptoms since their positive test.

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- Require symptomatic employees to wear masks until leaving the facility. Cleaning and disinfecting procedure should be implemented by designated personnel following [CDC guidelines](#) once sick employee leaves.
- Provide employees with information on help lines to access information or other support in reference to COVID-19, e.g. 211 and Hope4NC Helpline (1-855-587-3463)

Tattoo businesses can consider to:

- Conduct daily symptom screening (standard interview questionnaire English | Spanish) of employees at entrance to workplace with immediately sending symptomatic workers home to isolate.

Protecting Vulnerable Populations

Information on who is at higher risk for severe disease is available from the [CDC](#) and [NC DHHS](#).

It is recommended that tattoo businesses:

- Designate a specific appointment times for individuals to receive service who identify as high risk.
- Enable employees to self-identify as high risk for severe disease and reassign work to minimize face-to-face contact and to allow them to maintain a distance of six feet from others, or to telework if possible.

Combating Misinformation

Help ensure that the information your employees is getting is coming directly from reliable resources. Use resources from a trusted source like the [CDC](#) or [NCDHHS](#) to promote behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19.

It is recommended that tattoo businesses:

- Make information available to workers about COVID-19 prevention and mitigation strategies, using methods like videos, webinars, or printed materials like FAQs. Some reliable sources include [NC DHHS COVID-19](#), [Know Your Ws: Wear, Wait, Wash](#), [NC DHHS COVID-19 Latest Updates](#), [NC DHHS COVID-19 Materials & Resources](#)
- Hang signs and posters to remind patrons and staff of physical distancing, such as those found [Know Your Ws: Wear, Wait, Wash](#) and [Social Media Toolkit for COVID-19](#).

Water and Ventilation Systems

Reduced use of water and ventilations systems can pose their own health hazards. There is increased risk for Legionella and other waterborne pathogens from stagnant or standing water.

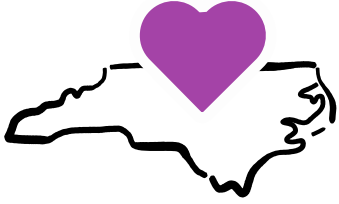
Before reopening, it is recommended that tattoo businesses:

- Follow the CDC's [Guidance](#) for Reopening Buildings After Prolonged Shutdown or Reduced Operation to minimize the risk of diseases associated with water.
- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, or other methods. Do not open windows and doors if they pose a safety or health risk to people using the facility.

Additional Resources

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- NC DHHS: [North Carolina COVID-19](#)
- CDC: [Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#)
- CDC: [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#)
- CDC: [Reopening Guidance](#)
- EPA: [Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2](#)
- HHS/OSHA: [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19](#)



#StayStrongNC

**Staying apart brings us together.
Protect your family and neighbors.**

Learn more at nc.gov/covid19.



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