

Dear Connecticut Licensed Barbers and Hairdressers,

Hairdressers and barbers continue to contact the Department of Public Health and other agencies about the current restrictions in place regarding the status of salons and barber shops as non-essential businesses.

The email you received on April 1 clarified the existing restrictions and guidance that relate to **ALL** non-essential businesses. It is important that each non-essential business consider the COVID 19 transmission risks associated with the services provided by that business.

One of the reasons your profession was ordered not to work in public settings, such as salons and shops, is that the nature of your profession puts you in direct contact with your clients. The risk of COVID 19 transmission, if you or a client is infected, is exponentially higher than professions that do not require direct contact. That risk does not change in non-public settings.

During this time you may be tempted to provide services in locations such as a client's home. It is important to remember that the existing sanitation guidelines for your profession are insufficient to protect you and your clients against COVID 19. In fact, the protection that a barber or hairdresser would require to reduce the likelihood of COVID 19 transmission during a haircut or styling would drain valuable personal protective equipment (PPE) needed by the frontline health care providers fighting this virus.

COVID 19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death. People without symptoms can transmit the virus. As of April 2, Connecticut has the fourth highest number of confirmed COVID 19 cases per capita in the country. These cases will continue to increase.

At this critical time it is essential that everyone stay home and practice social distancing. Social distancing means staying at least six feet away from each other. If we all adhere to these practices, we can flatten the COVID 19 curve and our lives will return to normal sooner.

Everyone's cooperation with adhering to the "Stay Safe, Stay at Home" directive is essential to slowing the rapid spread of this virus.

For more information on coronavirus, including information for businesses, please visit <https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus>.

Stay Safe!