



Guidance for Barber and Hairdresser Services Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities

July 8, 2020

Nursing homes and assisted living residences have been severely impacted by Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), with outbreaks causing high rates of infection, morbidity, and mortality. The vulnerable nature of the nursing home and assisted living population, combined with the inherent risks of congregating living in a healthcare setting, requires aggressive efforts to limit COVID-19 exposure and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within these homes.

This guidance is focused on barber and hairdresser services for residents living in nursing homes and assisted living residences. The guidance provides facilities with minimum standards to limit COVID-19 exposure and prevent the spread of COVID-19 within these facilities. The guidance includes the following elements that facilities must address to provide barber and hairdresser services to residents.

I. New Identified Cases of COVID-19

- If a facility identifies a new COVID-19 case in the facility, the facility must temporarily suspend barber and hairdresser services. The facility may resume barber and hairdresser services no earlier than 14 days from the new onset case, as long as there has been no new onset of COVID-19 cases at the nursing home or assisted living residence.

II. Screening Procedures

- As with all visitors, the facility must screen visiting barbers and hairdressers for symptoms and other risk factors for COVID-19 before they enter the facility. The most current list of COVID-19 symptoms can be found here: <https://health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/>. Sample screening tools are available in English and Spanish on www.reopeningri.com.
- If symptoms or other risk factors for COVID-19 are present, the barber or hairdresser shall not be allowed to enter the facility.
- Facilities must evaluate the risk to the health of the barber or hairdresser. (i.e., some individuals may have underlying illness, putting them at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19).
- The facility must limit points of entry to the facility and service provision hours to allow for screening of all visiting barbers and hairdressers.
- Facilities shall keep a daily log with the names and contact information for all visiting barbers and hairdressers.

III. Physical Space, Distancing, and Occupancy Limits

- Barber and hairdresser services must be provided to the resident in the resident's room or a dedicated area designed to provide such services.
- All visiting barbers and hairdressers will be escorted to the area where the services will be provided. Only one resident at a time is to be allowed in the area where the services will be provided.

- Barbers and hairdressers shall not travel through any space designated as a COVID-19 care space or any space where residents suspected or confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 are present.

IV. Scheduling and Provision of Services

- Barbers and hairdressers must have a valid and active Rhode Island license to provide barber and/or hairdresser services.
- All visits to provide barber and/or hairdresser services must be scheduled with the facility in advance. Unannounced visits by barbers and/or hairdressers are unacceptable, and such visitors will be denied entrance.
- Barber and hairdresser services must be provided in accordance with RIDOH regulatory requirements and Reopening RI guidelines, including:
 - [216-RICR-40-05-4](#)
 - [216-RICR-50-15-7](#)
 - [Phase III Guidelines for Personal Services](#)

V. Cleaning & Disinfecting Procedures

- All common surfaces and high-touch objects shall be cleaned and disinfected between each visit as specified in RIDOH regulations and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance.
 - [216-RICR-50-15-7](#)
 - [Preparing for COVID-19 in Nursing Homes](#)
- All chairs, tables, and benches should be cleaned before and after every visit in accordance with CDC guidance for nursing homes.
 - [Preparing for COVID-19 in Nursing Homes](#)
- All equipment shall be cleaned between clients.

VI. Face Masks and Other Personal Protective Equipment

- All visiting barbers and hairdressers must wear a cloth face covering at all times while in the facility.

VII. Hand Hygiene

- All visiting barbers and hairdressers shall perform hand hygiene upon entry to the facility and before entry to the area in the facility where the barber and/or hairdresser services will be provided.
- Either soap and water or hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol shall be available and used.
- All visiting barbers and hairdressers shall perform hand hygiene between clients.
- All visiting barbers and hairdressers shall perform hand hygiene again before exiting the facility.
- Barbers and hairdressers shall observe residents performing hand hygiene prior to entering the area.

VIII. Clear Communications Plan

- The facility must provide the following communication to all visitors:
 - Visiting barbers and hairdressers must coordinate visits to provide services with the facility. If a visit has not been previously coordinated with the facility, the services cannot be provided.
 - If the visiting barber or hairdresser has symptoms of COVID-19, the services cannot be provided, even if they were previously coordinated with the facility.
 - Clear instructions on hand hygiene, limiting of surfaces touched, the requirement to wear a face covering at all times, and the importance of maintaining six feet of physical distance from other people whenever possible.
 - All visiting barbers and hairdressers must be advised to monitor themselves for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days after leaving the facility. If symptoms occur, the barber or hairdresser must self-quarantine at home, contact their healthcare provider, and immediately notify the facility of the date they were in the facility, the individuals they were in contact with, and the locations within the facility they visited.