

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS

ALL HUMAN BLOOD AND CERTAIN HUMAN BODY FLUIDS ARE TREATED AS IF KNOWN TO BE INFECTIOUS FOR HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV), HEPATITIS B (HBV) AND OTHER BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

1. Needlestick Injuries

Take care to prevent injuries when using needles, razors and other sharp instruments or devices.

- a. do not recap needles
- b. use care when handling tubes and needles after tattooing
- c. use care when cleaning used sets after tattooing
- d. use care when disposing of used needles
- e. do not break needles by hand; use wire snips
- f. place discarded needles in puncture-proof sharps container

2. Gloves and Other Protective Barriers

Use protective barriers to prevent exposure to blood and body fluids containing visible blood.

- a. use gloves
- b. use disposable lap cloths
- c. use aprons or gowns for larger tattoo applications

3. Handwashing

Immediately and thoroughly wash hands (before and after tattoo application) and other skin surfaces that are contaminated with blood or body fluids. Handwashing is the single most important device for preventing infections.

4. Health Problems

Tattooists should refrain from tattooing or handling equipment until the condition has cleared if they have open sores, weeping dermatitis, or lesions on hands or arms. Tattooists who have cold or flu symptoms, refrain from tattooing and remain at home.