



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 4, 2020

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BOARD OF BARBERING AND COSMETOLOGY ENCOURAGES PROPER HANDWASHING AMID DISEASE CONCERNS

Consumers and licensees are urged to protect themselves

SACRAMENTO – The California Board of Barbering and Cosmetology (BBC) is encouraging consumers and licensees at hair and nail salons, spas and barber shops to take precautionary steps to protect themselves from diseases.

“The profession of our licensees requires physical contact with consumers. It is essential for everyone to be proactive in washing their hands to prevent the spread of disease,” said BBC Executive Officer Kristy Underwood.

BBC is recommending the following to its consumers, licensees and inspection staff to prevent spreading viruses and diseases.

- Wash hands with soap and water.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay away from work, school, or other people if you become sick with symptoms like fever and cough.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is recommending all individuals practice everyday prevention measures such as covering coughs and sneezes into a tissue or upper sleeve and frequent handwashing. The CDC has provided a video that demonstrates proper hand washing at <https://www.cdc.gov/cdctv/healthyliving/hygiene/fight-germs-wash-hands.html>.

Board of Barbering and Cosmetology Encourages Proper Handwashing Amid Disease Concerns

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According to the [California Code of Regulations 983 \(b\)](#), “Every licensee or student performing services shall thoroughly wash his or her hands with soap and water or any equally effective alcohol-based hand-cleaning product immediately before serving each client.”

“Consumers have the right to ask their professional if they have washed their hands before services are provided,” said Underwood.

BBC is also providing hand sanitizer to staff members who conduct safety inspections at salons, spas and barber shops. They are encouraged to partake in frequent handwashing when possible.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS: *The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) promotes and protects the interests of California consumers while ensuring a competent and fair marketplace. DCA helps consumers learn how to protect themselves from unscrupulous and unqualified individuals. The department also protects professionals (licensees) from unfair competition by unlicensed practitioners. Consumers can file complaints against licensees by contacting DCA at (800) 952-5210. Consumers can also file a complaint online at dca.ca.gov.*

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