

## MERS Virus

The practice of cosmetology puts licensees in contact with clients on a daily basis. Some general precautions should be taken by the licensees to ensure the health and safety of the public along with their own health and safety. One particularly dangerous virus, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) is just arriving in the United States (two reported cases as of May 14, 2014). All cosmetology professional should take precautions concerning exposure to this disease. Specific information concerning this virus can be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website: <http://www.cdc.gov/CORONAVIRUS/MERS/INDEX.HTML>

The CDC recommends the following tips to help prevent respiratory illnesses:

1. Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, and help young children do the same. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
2. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze then throw the tissue in the trash.
3. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
4. Avoid close contact, such as kissing, sharing cups, or sharing eating utensils, with sick people.
5. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs.

As a cosmetology professional you are regulated by:

*NRS 644.120 Regulations governing sanitary conditions.*

1. *The Board may adopt such regulations governing sanitary conditions as it deems necessary with particular reference to the precautions to be employed to prevent the creating or spreading of infectious or contagious diseases in the practice of hair braiding, in establishments for hair braiding, in the practice of a cosmetologist, in cosmetological establishments or schools of cosmetology, in the practice of threading and in any facility in this State in which threading is conducted.*
2. *No regulation governing sanitary conditions thus adopted has any effect until it has been approved by the State Board of Health.*
3. *A copy of all regulations governing sanitary conditions which are adopted must be furnished to each person to whom a license is issued for the conduct of a cosmetological establishment, establishment for hair braiding, school of cosmetology or practice of cosmetology.*

You are required to protect the public by following:

*NRS 644.430 Grounds; authorized disciplinary action; orders imposing discipline deemed public records.*

1. *The following are grounds for disciplinary action by the Board:*

*(d)Continued practice by a person knowingly having an infectious or contagious disease.*

Finally, as a licensee you are required to follow:

*NAC 644.360 Infectious or communicable diseases; infestations of animal parasites.*

- 1. A person afflicted with an infectious or communicable disease which may be transmitted during the practice of cosmetology or with an infestation of animal parasites shall not work or train in a cosmetological establishment or school of cosmetology.*
- 2. A cosmetological establishment or school of cosmetology shall not knowingly require, permit or allow a student or person licensed by the Board, to perform any service on a client who is afflicted with any infectious or communicable disease which may be transmitted to a person who is practicing cosmetology.*

**THE BOTTOM LINE:** As a licensed cosmetology professional you should **NEVER** work on a client who appears to be suffering from an infectious disease. By following the provisions of NRS 644 and NAC 644 along with the recommendations from the CDC, you will reduce the possibility of contracting or spreading an infectious disease.