

REQUIREMENTS FOR MESSAGE OPERATIONS

(Source: Health Standards and Guidelines for Personal Services, Alberta Health)

1. **The facility and all equipment** within must be in a clean and sanitary condition and in good repair, suitable for the purpose intended.
2. **Handwashing facilities** must be provided within reasonable access to the treatment area, as determined by the Public Health Inspector, with an adequate supply of hot and cold running potable water. Handwashing facilities must be provided with soap and single use towels, in suitable dispensers. Every attendant must wash his/her hands thoroughly with soap and hot water prior to the treatment of any client and between clients, and dry hands with single use towels. **Hand sanitizers are not permitted** as a replacement for traditional handwashing except with massages of fully clothed clients or where oils/lotions are not used.
3. **All tables, mats, or other surfaces** upon which persons rest while being treated must be clean and in good repair, and have a working surface that is smooth and free from cracks or tears, easily cleanable and capable of being effectively sanitized.
4. **All utensils, equipment and supplies** which come into direct contact with the client must be thoroughly cleansed and sanitized after each use and maintained in a sanitary condition until re-use. Treatment beds may be sanitized by wiping the surfaces with one of the following approved sanitizers:
 - A quaternary ammonium solution at a strength of not less than 200 ppm.
 - A chlorine solution at a strength of not less than 100 ppm (eg. 1/2 teaspoon household bleach to 1 litre of water).
 - An ethyl or isopropyl alcohol solution of not less than 70%.
 - An iodophor solution at a strength of not less than 12.5 ppm.
 - A phenolic germicidal solution prepared according to manufacturer's specifications.
 - Any other method approved by Calgary Health Region.
5. **Separate washable storage containers** for storage and separation of clean and soiled linens must be provided. Linens must be changed between clients and laundered after each use.
6. **Washroom facilities** must be provided on-site, accessible for use by all clients. Handwashing basins in public and staff washrooms must be provided with an adequate supply of hot and cold running potable water and with soap and single use towels, in suitable dispensers.
7. **Adequate lighting and natural or mechanical ventilation systems** must be provided and maintained in proper operating condition and free from defect.

Notwithstanding the above guidelines, massage operations must comply with the Health Standards and Guidelines for Personal Services, Alberta Health.