Barbers – Prepare your business now in readiness for re-opening

We sincerely hope that all businesses will be able to re-open at the end of the national lockdown. However, the virus is still circulating and is a risk to all of us, and businesses like yours.

What has changed since 5ᵗʰ November 2020?

Whilst much of the guidance and requirements placed on barbers which are outlined below remain the same, there has been a move from regulatory authorities and the Police from encouragement to enforcement for businesses that still do not exercise the correct controls.

Businesses should be aware the government has introduced fixed penalty notices for businesses failing to comply with the Covid guidance issued by Government, they can be fined £1,000 for a first offence, rising to £10,000 on a fourth offence.

In the last few weeks a number of fixed penalty notices have been served on businesses in Hertfordshire, this number will rise if more businesses reopen without robust control measures in place.

It is imperative that all the existing guidance must continue to be followed. Barbers must wear visors and type 2 face masks, and all of your customers must wear face coverings - including when you are cutting their hair.

It is also mandatory for you to collect contact details for track and trace. A good COVID-safe risk assessment can help you to identify issues, and reviewing your risk assessment will make sure you keep up-to-date with changes.

We need safe local barbers – play your part

If you need advice we're here to help; let's work together to control the virus, and do all we can to prevent any further closures. There is no charge for advice from Environmental Health, and we do want you to have a safe and successful business.

Where you can get more help:

- For the latest government guidance: www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19/close-contact-services
- For practical advice for Hertfordshire businesses, the BBfA Trading Safely toolkit has a wide range of guides, checklists and templates at: www.hertfordshirelep.com/what-we-do/priorities/business-support/better-business-for-all/covid-19-advice-and-support/
- Local councils' websites
- Contact us at (local email) or (local phone number).

If you're already confident you are COVID-secure, there's no need to contact us as we'll be carrying out spot checks to ensure everyone's safety.