



# Arkansas Department of Health

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**Governor Asa Hutchinson**

**Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health**

To: Arkansas Barbers, Body Artists, Cosmetologists, Massage Therapist, and Spas  
From: Dr. Nate Smith, Secretary of Health  
Date: March 23, 2020  
Regarding: **Directive to Barbers, Body Art Establishments, Body Art Schools, Cosmetology Establishments, Massage Therapy Clinics/Spas, and Medical Spas**

The Secretary of Health, in consultation with the Governor, has sole authority over all instances of quarantine, isolation, and restrictions on commerce and travel throughout Arkansas, as necessary and appropriate to control disease in the state of Arkansas as authorized by Ark. Code Ann. §20-7-109—110 and the Arkansas State Board of Health Rules Pertaining to Reportable Disease (2019). Based on available scientific evidence, it is necessary and appropriate to take further action to ensure that COVID-19 remains controlled and that residents and visitors in Arkansas remain safe.

While the CDC public health emergency recommendations do not apply to the day-to-day operation of certain business operations at this time, there are no reasonable assurances of recommended social distancing and safety in Barber Shops, Body Art Establishments, Body Art Schools, Cosmetology Establishments, Massage Therapy Clinics/Spas, and Medical Spas. In order to slow the spread of COVID-19, all Barbers, Body Art establishments, Body Art schools, Cosmetology establishments, Massage Therapy Clinics/Spas, and Medical Spas should close for in-person operations. Maintaining any related schools' distance education/learning is acceptable.

This directive to Barbers, Body Art Establishments, Body Art Schools, Cosmetology Establishments and Massage Therapy Clinics/Spas, and Medical Spas is made in an attempt to reduce introduction of the virus into new communities and to slow the spread of infection in communities already affected by the virus. This directive and mandate is subject to change as the COVID-19 pandemic progresses.

This directive will be in effect as of March 25, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.