

Face painting is defined as the application of water-based paint or make-up on the face to create a design. Hygiene and sanitation are important in the application of face paint to prevent any possible allergic reactions and spread of skin infections between individuals.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Event organizers should have the contact information for the face painting artist(s). The event organizers or artist(s) can contact the local Health Department to get more information on standards and procedures for applying the paints and make-up to prevent the spread of diseases or contamination of the products.

FACE PAINTING PRODUCTS

- Face paint must be non-toxic, cosmetic-grade, and suitable for applying to the face
- Paints must be hypoallergenic
- All face paints used should be easily removable with make-up remover, baby wipes, or with regular soap and water

REQUIREMENTS OF THE FACE PAINTING ARTIST

- Artist hands must be clean and free of sores and open cuts
- Non-latex gloves may be worn, but they should be changed frequently
- Supply disposable towelettes for wiping tips of pencils in between use
- At the face painting station, a temporary hand washing station should be set up with running water, liquid hand soap and paper towels. If this is not possible, use disposable wet towelettes or alcohol based hand sanitizer for hand cleaning between clients.

FACE PAINT APPLICATION

- Permission from the parent or caregiver should be obtained prior to applying on a child
- Do not apply paint to any person who has visible sores, conjunctivitis (pink eye), open cuts, skin rashes or other skin conditions
- Area on the skin where the paint will be applied must be cleaned with single use alcohol wipes, baby wipes, or face cleanser (dispensed with a disposable applicator e.g. cotton swab)
- To test for an allergic reaction, paints can be applied to the arm first
- Creams and paints should be dispensed in small quantities onto a disposable paper/cup/container (left over paint and paper must be discarded after each customer)
- Avoid application of paints too close to the eyes or lips
- Application on the face must be with single use disposable applicators such as:
 - Sponges
 - Swabs
 - Cotton tipped applicators
 - Disposable brushes*
 - Applicator sticks

* Common use brushes should not be used if the brushes cannot be cleaned and sanitized in-between customer use

- Provide a garbage container at the work station

REFERENCES

BC Ministry of Health Guidelines for Personal Services Establishments (PSEs)

BC Personal Services Establishment Regulations

