

Risks associated with tattooing and body piercing

Tattooing and body piercing carry risks of infection and bloodborne disease transmission. For more information, go to:

- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) information and [advice for tattoo artists, body piercers and their clients](#)
- US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) information "[Think Before You Ink](#)"
- New York State DOH information on [Viral Hepatitis](#)

Tattooing of minors is against the law

It is violation of [section 260.21 of New York State Penal Law](#) to tattoo minors under the age of 18, regardless of parental consent. Contact local law enforcement for more information.

If you get a tattoo, make sure that the tattooist

- Washes their hands before tattooing and uses clean gloves
- Cleans the skin to be tattooed
- Uses a single-use, disposable razor to shave the skin to be tattooed, if needed
- Uses single-use sterile needles and tubes and single-use inks
- Covers the tattooed skin with a bandage and provides aftercare instructions

If you get a body piercing, make sure that the piercer

- Washes their hands before piercing and uses clean gloves
- Cleans the area to be pierced
- Uses a single-use, disposable razor to shave the skin to be pierced, if needed
- Uses sterile needles, clamps, receiving tubes and body jewelry
- Provides aftercare instructions

Related Links

- [FDA information on tattooing and permanent makeup](#)
- [The National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety provides information for artists](#)