



PUBLIC HEALTH AND PARAMEDIC SERVICES Health Protection and Healthy Environments

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Special Event Guidelines for Henna and Face Painting

Outline of what guidelines vendors should follow when offering henna and face painting at special events.

Even though applications for henna and face painting at special events are not required, vendors should follow these guidelines.

- Face paint must be non-toxic, cosmetic-grade, and suitable for applying to the face.
- Face paint must be hypoallergenic and should be easy to remove.
- Do not use henna containing paraphenylenediamine (PPD), coal tar dye or hair dye. Access more information from [Health Canada](#).

Equipment requirements

Provide a temporary hand washing station with potable water, liquid hand soap, and paper towels at the face painting station. If this is not possible, use disposable wet towelettes or alcohol-based hand sanitizer on hands before and after providing service to each client.

- Operator hands must be clean and free of sores and open cuts.
- Provide disposable wet towelettes for wiping tips of pencils between uses.
- Provide a garbage container in the work area.

Applying face painting make-up

- Vendors should obtain verbal permission from the parent or caregiver before applying face paint on children.
- Do not apply face paint too close to the eyes or lips.
- Do not apply face paint on persons with an eye infection (pink eye), open cuts, sores, rashes, or other skin conditions.
- Clean your hands before starting the make-up application.
- Clean the skin before applying the paint. Use single use alcohol wipes, baby wipes, or face cleanser on a cotton pad.
- Do not apply face paint on persons with an eye infection (pink eye), open cuts, sores, rashes, or other skin conditions.
- Dispense the amount of make-up needed for one application.
- Use new single-use disposable applicators to apply the face paint such as sponges, cotton tipped applicators, disposable make-up brushes, and applicator sticks.
- Discard left over paint immediately after each client.

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