

VTCT and iTEC Beauty and Massage Therapies Announcement

Important notice for centres offering VTCT or iTEC qualifications in beauty therapy, nail services, make-up services, and massage therapies:

July 2020 - The UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy have announced that certain treatments and services are not permitted until further notice, in line with the government's public health advice.

Only treatments and services that do not involve the highest risk area (the face) should be performed by learners/apprentices completing their qualifications or assessments. This means that treatments such as facial waxing, eyelash treatments, make-up application and facial skincare treatments should not be provided until government advice changes, due to the greater risk of virus transmission.

Beauty treatments that are strictly not allowed for practical assessment for VTCT and iTEC qualifications include:

Face treatments which are not permitted:

- Facial skincare
- Facial massage
- Eyebrow shaping or tinting
- Eyelash treatments
- Make-up
- Facial electrical treatments

In order to maintain the safety of learners and clients in line with UK government guidelines, practical observations for treatments which fall within the highest risk zone (face) will not be allowed and will need to be completed when public health advice indicates it is safe to do so. VTCT learners and apprentices should not be working towards assessments with clients involving treatments within the highest risk zone (the face) at this time.

Whilst a clear timetable for the easing of treatment restrictions and further public health advice has yet to be issued by the government, VTCT is continuing to work with our own panel of international public health experts, to provide treatment specific guidance via a suite of Ofqual regulated VTCT Covid-19 Infection Prevention qualifications; specifically for beauty therapy, nail services, complementary therapies, make-up services and advanced aesthetic treatments.

Where certain beauty, nails and massage therapy services are allowed, centres should conduct a risk assessment and ensure at minimum:

- Learners/practitioners/apprentices wear a mask, visor and gloves for services, where appropriate (skin to skin contact should be avoided)
- Clients wear masks
- Screens or barriers are used to separate clients and practitioners, such as in nail salons
- Full client records are maintained for contact tracing purposes, a strict appointment system is operated, and the number of people in the treatment area is kept to a minimum in order to effectively implement social distancing
- Treatment times should only be in the range of 15-30 minutes