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## EDUCATOR ANSWER KEY—TATTOOS AND PIERCINGS QUIZ

1. **False.** Restrictions vary between provinces and territories as does the age of majority, which is 16 in some provinces/territories and 18 in others.
2. **True.** Some provinces have written these restrictions into law.
3. **True.** Established, reputable, licenced studios are more likely to follow rules and regulations (including age restrictions) that ensure their clients' safety. (For more information, see **Safer Tattooing and Piercing**)
4. **False.** While most oral (tongue, lip, cheek, and gum) and genital piercings done in established, reputable, licenced studios will heal well, there are higher risks associated with these sensitive areas. Gum and tooth damage (including chips and cracks) are the most common consequences of oral piercings. If a tongue piercing is improperly placed, it can lead to nerve damage, which can cause numbness or difficulty swallowing. Infections are also possible. If these are left untreated, they can have negative consequences. Genital piercings may also lead to complications, including nerve damage that can cause a loss of sensation, increased risk of contracting STBBIs during unprotected sex, and serious bacterial infection. While complications can happen and it is important to be informed when making a decision, many people who have genital piercings do not experience these complications. People should be mindful about avoiding sex or engage in sexual activities that do not implicate the piercing while it heals.
5. **False.** Some people experience allergic reactions to certain types of piercing jewelry. Some people experience severe skin reactions to tattoo ink, especially red and yellow inks.
6. **True.** They should change their gloves for new clients and if they leave the work station and touch anything else.
7. **True.** Tattoos and piercings break the skin, which can leave people vulnerable to skin infections and STBBIs, including HIV or Hepatitis C. Tattooing or piercing with unsterile equipment creates a risk for viruses that are spread through fresh and/or dried blood, like Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B, and HIV.
8. **True.** Piercing can lead to permanent scarring or keloids, which are growths of scar tissue that rise up from the surface of the skin. Keloids may be skin-colored or shades of pink or purple.
9. **False.** Tiny, invisible particles of blood stay on equipment that has not been properly sterilized. These particles can stay in tattoo ink. Similarly, if a tattoo artist has been dipping a needle from another individual into the same cup of ink, bacteria or viruses can be transmitted to you.
10. **False.** Rubbing alcohol can be helpful but is not guaranteed to get rid of all bacteria or viruses, particularly in tattoo needles that are hollow and can easily retain particles. Reusable equipment should be sterilized in an autoclave, a machine that uses very hot water to sterilize a needle. Needles should be sterilized at 121°C or 250°F for 30 minutes.





11. **True.** Part of follow-up instructions includes recognizing signs of infection. If there are any, it is important to get follow-up care.

