



# What To Know About Getting a Tattoo

You should understand the risks and research the process before getting a tattoo. Tattooing involves breaking the skin, which is one of your body's main protective barriers. This means you may be more susceptible to skin and blood infections. Some of the risks can include but are not limited to:

**Bloodborne diseases.** If the equipment used to do your tattoo is contaminated with the blood of an infected person, you can contract a number of serious bloodborne diseases. These include hepatitis C, hepatitis B, tetanus and HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

**Skin infections.** The use of unsterile equipment or re-used ink can result in skin infections, ranging from minor to potentially serious antibiotic resistant infections. Symptoms may include redness, swelling, or pus-like drainage.

**Granulomas.** Bumps may form around the site of the tattoo as a reaction to the ink.

**Scars and keloids.** The ink may cause scars and keloids (raised, ridged areas caused by overgrowth of scar tissue).

**Allergic reactions.** The ink may cause an itchy rash at the tattoo site.

**Swelling or burning.** Tattooed areas may swell or burn during Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) exams.

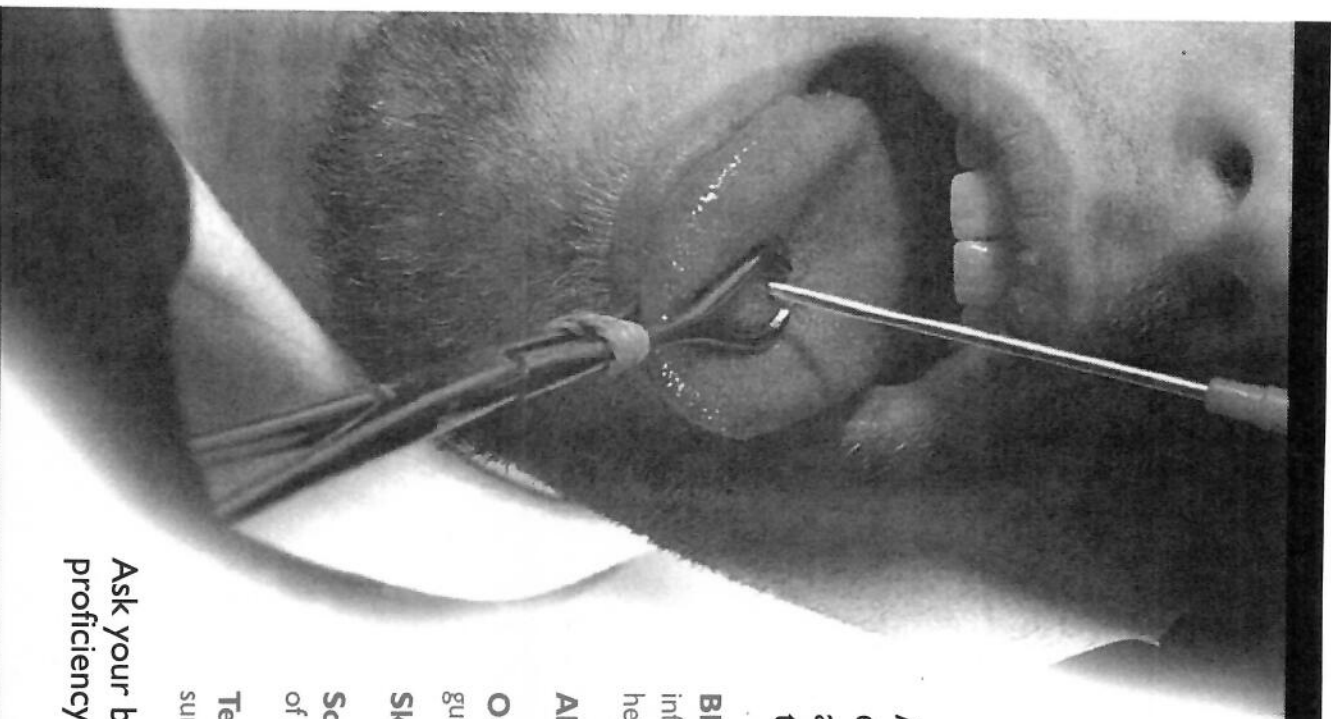
Ask your body art professional about their Bloodborne Pathogen Training, the establishment's proficiency requirements, and the establishment's autoclave monthly spore test results.

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# What To Know About Getting a Piercing

Any piercing can be a very dangerous procedure if not done properly in a safe, clean environment by a trained professional. The responsibility lies upon you to research and ask questions about your body piercer and your specific body piercing. Some of the risks can include but are not limited to:

**Bloodborne diseases.** If the equipment used to do your piercing is contaminated with the blood of an infected person, you can contract a number of serious bloodborne diseases. These include hepatitis C, hepatitis B, tetanus and HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

**Allergic reactions.** Some piercing jewelry is made of nickel or brass, which can cause allergic reactions.

**Oral complications.** Jewelry worn in tongue piercings can chip and crack your teeth and damage your gums. Also, tongue swelling after a new piercing can block the throat and airway.

**Skin infections.** Piercings may cause redness, swelling, pain and a pus-like discharge.

**Scars and keloids.** Body piercing can cause scars and keloids (ridged, raised areas caused by an overgrowth of scar tissue).

**Tearing or trauma.** Jewelry can get caught and torn out accidentally. Trauma to a piercing may require surgery or stitches to repair. If not repaired, the damaged area may develop permanent scars or deformity.

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