**Hygiene concept for erotic services referring to Covid-19 prevention**

Bundesverband erotische und sexuelle Dienstleistungen (BesD), Germany.

Slightly abbreviated.

Red: Remarks only relevant to Germany.

1. **Introduction**

The Berufsverband für erotische und sexuelle Dienstleistungen (BesD e.V.) represents the interests of sex workers in all areas of sex work in Germany. Sex work is a varied business which requires more than one different Corona hygiene concepts.

We want to make aware of the fact that sex workers are already familiar with the topic and practices of infection control. Preventive measures against the transmission with sexually transmitted diseases have been part of everyday work life already before the current crisis.

This concept was created in conjunction with the local health authorities and refers to independent sex workers who work in these areas:

* Escort
* Own apartment
* Sex work apartment
* Caravan
* Street

Most sex workers, however, work in brothels and other larger entities. The creation of hygiene concepts for these businesses is a task for business owner associations. They are responsible for hygiene concepts and infection control related to all sexually transmitted diseases according to the ProstSchG.

1. **Measures regardless of sex work location**

* Clients with symptoms of fever or an infection of the breathing apparatus must be excluded from the service except they can show a medical attest that they are not infected with Covid-19.
* Hand disinfectant must be present or carried with.
* Mouth/nose coverings have to be worn at all times. Masks of medical quality (or self made alternatives) must be available in sufficient numbers. We advise sex workers to bring several new masks for the client to the appointment or stock them at the workplace. Masks that can be re-used have to be washed at 60 degrees Celsius or with a disinfecting detergent at 40 degrees.
* Any erotic in person service is between two and not more people.
* For contract tracing, client data has to be collected and stored for 4 weeks. We advise to keep them in sealed envelopes and to put a date on them.
* Exclusion criteria: If the Client gives the impression of not taking the measures seriously. If the Client refuses to adhere to the rules.

1. **Sex work in sex work apartments/own apartment/Caravan**

**C.a Before the meeting**

* Sex work can take place on appointment only.
* In the sanitary room there have to be hand disinfectant, liquid soap and paper towels.
* Sanitary rooms have to be cleaned before every client appointment.
* In the forward communication, on the phone or by email, the necessary measures are being discussed.
* Unambiguous notice of the restriction of services: The erotic service takes place with mouth/nose covering only, no oral practices (mouth/nose covering cannot be taken off), no close to the face services.
* Unambiguous notice of the collection and 4 weeks storage of client date for the purpose of contact tracing.

**C.b Upon arrival of a client**

* No greetings involving close contact (hugs, shaking hands), also with regular clients
* Disinfection or hand washing by the client
* Advice: handing the client a fresh mouth/nose covering
* Before the erotic service: Showering of client and sex worker

**C.c At the talk-before with a client**

* Talk-before and chit chat can only be done without a mouth/nose covering if a minimum distance of 1.5 metres can be adhered to.

**C.d During the erotic service**

* No oral practices (mouth/nose covering may not be taken off)
* No service close to face. During the service there must be a distance between the faces of both persons of minimum 1 under arm’s length
* It is conventional practice to perform anal services only with gloves.
* Any intercourse takes place only with condoms as is prescribed by the ProstSchG
* Bathing or jaccuzi games are possible because water is no means of transmission – the mouth/nose covering has to be worn and may not become wet.
* Handling of bodily fluids: It is conventional practice of sex workers to treat bodily fluids infection in a way to neutralize them for possible infections. To the point: (Pre-)Ejaculate is being wiped off with paper towels and being disposed of into a disposal bag nearby. The hands have to be disinfected afterwards.

**C.e After the erotic service**

* Showering of client and sex worker
* Clothing that has been worn during the erotic service (i.e. underwear) must be changed after the service and washed at 60°C or 40°C (disinfecting detergent).
* In case the client was wearing clothing during the erotic service (i.e. fetish wear), they are to be made aware of the need to wash them accordingly.

**C.f Cleaning of the locality**

Be aware that this is the general standard of hygiene in prostitution localities. According to the ProstSchG every sex work locality has an individually fitted hygiene concept.

*Work rooms:*

* Let air in for minimum 10 minutes
* Change bedclothes and wash according to disinfection
* Dispose of garbage correctly
* Wash all contact surfaces that were used such as chairs, benches, shelves with a fat solvent or disinfect with a proper disinfectant.
* Erotic toys have to be cleaned and disinfected according to their material

*Sanitary rooms (bathroom, toilet):*

* Wash tabs, sink and toilet with a fat solvent or disinfect with a proper disinfectant.
* Exchange and wash towels

1. **Escort**

**D.a Before the meeting**

* Sex work can take place on appointment only.
* Sanitary rooms have to be cleaned before every client appointment
* In the forward communication, on the phone or by email, the necessary measures are being discussed.
* Unambiguous notice of the restriction of services: The erotic service takes place with mouth/nose covering only, no oral practices (mouth/nose covering cannot be taken off), no close to the face services.
* Unambiguous notice of the collection and 4 weeks storage of client date for the purpose of contact tracing.
* Instruction for the client to do themselves or to have the hotel do it:
* Have ready hand disinfectant, liquid soap and paper towels in the sanitary rooms
* Clean sanitary rooms before the meeting
* Put fresh bed clothes on
* Put air into the room for minimum 10 minutes

**D.b Upon arrival at a client‘s**

* No greetings involving close contact (hugs, shaking hands), also with regular clients
* Disinfection or hand washing by the sex worker
* Advice: handing the client a fresh mouth/nose covering
* Before the erotic service: Showering of client and sex worker

**C.c At the talk-before with a client**

* Talk-before and chit chat can only be done without a mouth/nose covering if a minimum distance of 1.5 metres can be adhered to.

**C.d During the erotic service**

* No oral practices (mouth/nose covering may not be taken off)
* No service close to face. During the service there must be a distance between the faces of both persons of minimum 1 under arm’s length
* It is conventional practice to perform anal services only with gloves.
* Any intercourse takes place only with condoms as is prescribed by the ProstSchG
* Bathing or jaccuzi games are possible because water is no means of transmission – the mouth/nose covering has to be worn and may not become wet.
* Handling of bodily fluids: It is conventional practice of sex workers to treat bodily fluids infection in a way to neutralize them for possible infections. To the point: (Pre-)Ejaculate is being wiped off with paper towels and being disposed of into a disposal bag nearby. The hands have to be disinfected afterwards.

**C.e After the erotic service**

* Showering of client and sex worker
* Clothing that has been worn during the erotic service (i.e. underwear) must be changed after the service and washed at 60°C or 40°C (disinfecting detergent).
* In case the client was wearing clothing during the erotic service (i.e. fetish wear), they are to be made aware of the need to wash them accordingly.

**D.f Cleaning of the locality**

Instruction for the client to do themselves or to have the hotel do it.

*Room in which the service took place:*

* Let air in for minimum 10 minutes
* Change bedclothes and wash according to disinfection
* Dispose of garbage correctly
* Wash all contact surfaces that were used such as chairs, benches, shelves with a fat solvent or disinfect with a proper disinfectant.
* Erotic toys have to be cleaned and disinfected according to their material

*Sanitary rooms (bathroom, toilet):*

* Wash tabs, sink and toilet with a fat solvent or disinfect with a proper disinfectant.
* Exchange and wash towels

1. **Street**

The street itself is only the place of initiation. The service usually takes place in the vehicle. In the vehicle the service is usually reduced to manual and oral stimulation. The latter is excluded following this concept.

We want to make aware that intercourse in street sex work usually takes place in hotels by the hour. In rarer cases it takes place in the vehicle or in the outdoors.

In the case of service in rooms, the same roles as for sex work apartments/the own apartment apply.

There are special hygiene concepts for some street work areas with sex drive-ins. We were often included at the creation of these concepts and consider these guidelines very useful and practical for the place in question.

We want to make aware of the fact that people who work on the street are often members of disadvantaged groups who don’t have financial means to stock up on mouth/nose coverings, disinfectant etc.

These items that have to be carried with on the street must be handed provided by consultancy offices, health authority and street workers.

This should not be covered by the small financial budgets of consultancy offices but be paid from public funds.

**E.a General**

The following items have to be carried during sex work on the street:

* Several mouth/nose covering for self and client
* 2 bottles of hand disinfectant – one for self and one for clients
* Several small disposal bags
* Envelopes, paper, pen for collecting data

**E.b During the initiation talk**

* Keep the minimum distance of 1,5 metres
* No greetings involving close contact (hugs, shaking hands), also with regular clients
* The sex workers may not lean into vehicles but cary out the conversation from outside it
* Unambiguous notice of the restriction of services: The erotic service takes place with mouth/nose covering only, no oral practices (mouth/nose covering cannot be taken off), no close to the face services.
* Unambiguous notice of the collection and 4 weeks storage of client date for the purpose of contact tracing. (cf. E.c)

**E.c Before the erotic service**

* Client and sex worker: Disinfect hands (two separate bottles)
* Recommendation: Provide fresh mouth/nose covering to the client
* As an alternative to data collection, we suggest for clients who drove to the street venue in a vehicle to note down the number plate. We suggest to keep these information in a sealed envelope and to put a date on it. Some consultancy offices plan to put up safe mailboxes to collect sex workers’ enveloped and to destroy them after 4 weeks.

**E.b During the erotic service**

* There may not be more than two persons in the vehicle or room of the hourly hotel
* No oral practices (mouth/nose covering may not be taken off)
* No service close to face. During the service there must be a distance between the faces of both persons of minimum 1 under arm’s length
* Handling of bodily fluids: It is conventional practice of sex workers to treat bodily fluids infection in a way to neutralize them for possible infections. To the point: (Pre-)Ejaculate is being wiped off with paper towels and being disposed of into a disposal bag nearby. The hands have to be disinfected afterwards.

**E.c After the erotic service**

* Disinfect hands and all body areas that got into contact with the client
* Disinfect handles of the client-bottle of disinfectant
* Change clothes as soon as possible/on the next day
* If the service takes place in a vehicle, tell the client to let air in for minimum 10 minutes