

Bunk Bed Guidelines - Temporary Foreign Worker Housing

The following information is intended for growers using bunk beds in housing units provided for Temporary Foreign Workers.

2021 Growing Season

Niagara Region Public Health & Emergency Services (NRPH&ES) recognizes that:

- Bunk beds have been identified as a contributing factor to the spread of infectious disease in congregate living housing
- Some temporary foreign worker houses have historically relied on bunk beds
- In some circumstances, the elimination of bunk beds will drastically reduce the maximum capacity numbers in worker houses
- The addition of new or expanded housing will require approvals and inspection multiple items, including zoning, building, septic and fire

As such, the use of bunk beds will be permitted in circumstances where no other alternatives are feasible for the 2021 growing season. These approvals are subject to the following conditions:

- Notification to NRPH&ES of the intent to use bunk beds
- Onsite inspection by NRPH&ES for an assessment of the facilities
- Bunk Beds must be distanced 2 meters apart, or appropriate barriers are to be provided
- Lower bunks must have a barrier installed to prevent droplet transmission. These barriers should allow sufficient air flow, be made from materials that are durable and tolerate repeated cleaning with detergents or disinfectants, without damage.
- Each sleeper, top and bottom, are to be provided with masks. The worker is not expected to wear this at night, but are to be worn if worker leaves their bed
- Workers are to sleep in alternate positions (head to toe)

*Note these are temporary guidelines for the 2021 growing season. Growers are advised to phase out the use of bunk beds in worker housing over the next 1-2 years.

For more information, please contact:
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