

Temporary Barrier Guidelines in Sleeping Quarters - Temporary Foreign Worker Housing

The following information is intended for growers looking to erect barriers in housing units provided for Temporary Foreign Workers. Barriers or partitions are used in situations where a physical distance of 2 meters between beds is not possible.

Individuals should consult with the fire and building department of the local municipality to ensure the construction or installation does not violate building or fire codes creating an unsafe environment for the workers.

Reasons for use of a barrier

Barriers are proposed to serve three critical functions:

- 1) Intercepting respiratory droplets that can transmit the virus.
- 2) Re-enforcing physical distancing requirements, even when users are unwilling or forgetful.
- 3) Reducing reliance on masks, both due to the shortage of these items and user comfort.

If staff and/or clients will be unmasked on opposing sides of these barriers, it is essential that the partition has been designed, installed, and maintained such that it effectively prevents the co-mingling of droplets (and aerosols) produced by both parties.

Design

Barriers should be designed and installed with functionality in mind, accounting for the 30 cm radius around the user's head known as the breathing zone. They should be as high and wide as possible without compromising safety or sufficient airflow in the room.

The barrier material should be easy to clean, maintain, repair and replace. They must be durable, to tolerate repeated cleaning with detergents and disinfectants, without damage. Hanging barriers should be heavy enough to prevent them from blowing when a window is open, or be anchored to the floor or wall.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Barriers should be cleaned and disinfected on the same frequency that other areas of the room and/or house are cleaned as good practice. Those materials that cannot be sprayed with a disinfectant, must be removable and laundered at least monthly or when visibly soiled.

Niagara Region Public Health

Commonly Installed Barriers

Welding Screens



Niagara Region Public Health

Hospital Curtains



Niagara Region Public Health

Plastic Curtains



For more information, please contact:
Niagara Region Public Health and Emergency Services, Environmental Health Division
905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7590
www.niagararegion.ca/health

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