

COVID-19

Use of Physical Barriers as an Engineering Control

Updates: 7/16/21 Use of physical barriers is no longer a requirement

On June 15 many COVID-19 restrictions were lifted in Los Angeles County including the requirement that businesses or employers use physical barriers to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This guidance is provided for businesses and employers who wish to continue to use physical barriers as an engineering control to supplement other COVID-19 prevention measures.

- 1. Purpose of Barriers as a Control** - The purpose of physical spatial distancing is to prevent disease transmission. Use of impermeable barriers can act as an engineering control that provide supplemental protection to both customers and employees. The purpose of these partitions is to ensure that one user's breathing zone is not contaminated by exhalations from another.
- 2. Physical Characteristics of Barriers** – Barriers must be made of impermeable and durable materials that can be frequently cleaned, and of a suitable height and width to intercept droplets (i.e. plexiglass). Barriers must be installed per **fire and building** codes so as not to interfere with the ventilation or fire protection systems.
- 3. Height and Width of Barrier** - The height of a barrier must take into account the tallest user and the width should be as wide as the surface will allow. In general, the height of the barrier should provide 6-feet of protection as measured from the floor. If openings are needed to allow limited interactions (e.g., a document slot, or space for a point-of-sale terminal), the slots should be as small as possible and should be placed off-center, rather than directly in front of the persons face.
- 4. Cleaning and Disinfection** – Clean and disinfect barriers at least once per day or as often as needed, using products approved for use against COVID-19 on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved list and follow product instructions: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/listn-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>.

For more information, please contact Industry Engagement at (626) 430-5320.

For more information on COVID-19 visit: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov> or call the Los Angeles County Information line 2-1-1 which is available 24 hours a day.