

 <p>THE CITY OF COLUMBUS ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR DIVISION OF FIRE</p>	Public Information	
	Barrier Use Guidelines for Daycares	
	Fire Prevention Bureau 3639 Parsons Ave Columbus, Ohio 43207 (614)645-7641 Ext. 7-5604 www.columbus.gov	Issued: 6/1/2020 Revised: 6/1/2020
	Permit Not Required	

Columbus Division of Fire (CFD) guidelines regarding use of **temporary barriers in Daycare Centers.**

This document is to be used as a guideline and is not exhaustive and does not encompass the totality of all relevant sections of the Ohio Fire Code and Title 25, Columbus Fire Prevention Code.

Curtains, draperies, fabric hangings and similar combustible materials that are suspended from walls or ceilings are strictly regulated by both the Columbus Division of Fire and the Columbus Department of Building and Zoning. This would include any temporary social distancing installations such as shower curtains, vinyl or plastic separations.

Occupancy, square footage, material type, location, method of suspension and other factors can determine whether barrier usage is acceptable, or if it violates Building and/or Fire Code. CFD inspectors will evaluate each use of barriers on a case-by-case basis. In all cases where barriers are in use, the following must be adhered to at all time:

1) For customers that wish to reopen their daycare under the new COVID-19 restrictions from the State of Ohio, an inspection from BZS is needed and the following process should be adhered to:

- The customer should apply for a non-permit inspection that states "Temporary Partitions for Daycare due to COVID-19" on the area to be inspected line of the Miscellaneous Services Application
- The Miscellaneous Services Application can be submitted by email to BZS-Intake@columbus.gov
- Customer Service will set up the non-permit inspection record, note "Temporary Partitions for Daycare due to COVID-19" in the work description, and charge the customer \$150.00
- The customer schedules an inspection using the assigned NPI (non-permit inspection) number by contacting the Building Inspection Manager, David Daniel at dldaniel@columbus.gov or (614) 645-8445.

2) Distinct hazards that must be addressed immediately

- Barriers cannot obstruct egress
- Barriers cannot obstruct smoke alarms or any other fire protection devices
- Barriers cannot obstruct sprinkler pattern and must provide a minimum 24" clearance below sprinkler heads
- Barriers cannot obstruct visibility of exit signs/strobes

3) The following will be evaluated

- Type of material used (fire performance rating) must be non-combustible or satisfy sections of the OBC 806.3, 806.4 and OFC 807.3, 807.4. **Supporting documentation of fire resistance must be provided.**
- Is it supported by the floor?
 - If movable partitions/walls will be utilized, all materials utilized shall meet Class A, B, or C requirements per section OBC/OFC 803.1.1. Prefabricated accordion style partitions that fall within the material guidelines would be acceptable.
 - Acrylic Plexiglas Sheets (without additional supporting documentation) may not be approved.
- A room may be divided into smaller spaces to serve multiple groups, under limited circumstances.
- The smaller space must contain at least 35 square feet of space per child.
- The divider must be at least six feet in height.
- The divider must be made from nonporous material or other material that can be sanitized.
- The divider must meet any requirements set by the Department of Commerce, local building department, state fire marshal, or local fire safety inspector.

Below are links of examples of fire-rated materials. These are representative only and similar products are available from other vendors.

Flame Retardant Polyethylene Film

<https://www.homedepot.com/p/HUSKY-12-ft-x-100-ft-6-mil-Flame-Retardant-Plastic-Sheeting-CFFR0612/202184230>

Shower Curtains

<https://www.suppliesforhotels.com/product/vinyl-8-gauge-regency-flame-retardant/>

<https://www.prodryers.com/asi-1200-v48-vinyl-shower-curtain-flame-retardant/>

Welding Curtains

<https://www.grainger.com/product/STEINER-Transparent-Vinyl-Welding-5UZ13>

<https://www.curtain-and-divider.com/industrial-welding-curtains/>