

To effectively minimize COVID-19 risk, it is important to implement multi-layered mitigation strategies. This includes staying home when sick, physical distancing when able, staggering work/lunch hours, and wearing an approved mask.

Plexiglass barriers are a mitigation strategy that provides a barrier between people and to help minimize the spread of respiratory droplets when individuals are in close contact and cannot physically distance. They do not protect people from aerosol transmission of COVID-19 which is recognized as the predominant route of infection.

LIMITATIONS OF PLEXIGLASS BARRIERS

Barriers can provide a false sense of security. It is important to remember that barriers are only part of a multi-layered mitigation strategy and should be used in combination with other USask COVID-19 preventative measures.

When in-person interactions cannot be avoided, barriers can provide a physical separation between people to support physical distancing efforts. However, they are not always appropriate and do have limitations (including but not limited to):

- barriers do not provide a zero-risk solution, aerosol transmission can still occur when barriers are in place
- barriers do not replace the need to physically distance when possible
- barriers are not feasible or appropriate in all workspaces and work activities
- plexiglass barriers are not recommended for laboratory settings

If barriers are not designed or installed properly for the specific work environment, barriers may obstruct or interfere with the airflow in the space which could have a negative impact to COVID-19 prevent and thus, the opposite effect intended.

GUIDELINES FOR INSTALLATION

The installation and use of a barrier must not obstruct pathways and cannot impede access or egress, especially in the event of an emergency.

Barriers should be freestanding or installed with double-sided tape or clamps. Avoid physically mounting to walls or office in such a way as to cause permanent damage when barriers are removed.

Freestanding barriers must be stable to ensure they will not fall.

Do not mount barriers to ceiling or ceiling grid.

Allow a space of at least 24" between top of barrier and ceiling.

- barriers cannot inhibit fire detection and sprinkler systems
- impact to space ventilation should be minimized.

PROCUREMENT OF BARRIERS

Enterprise Procurement has provided the following vendor options for procurement of barriers and installation service.

Vendors of plexiglass barriers

Vendor	Details of Service	Contact
WD Plastics, Saskatoon	Offers in-stock 24" or 30" wide free standing guards. USask receives 20% off retail price for an average cost of \$50 per barrier.	Todd Hudson Tel: 306-934-6844 Email: Todd@wdplastics.com Web: www.wdplastics.com
Aero Glass, Saskatoon	Can provide free-standing barriers in 2-3 days. Average cost: \$140 for 20"x30" \$260 for 40"x30"	Aero Glass Tel: 306-244-1888 Email: aeroglass@sasktel.net Web: aeroglass.ca
Uline	Countertop and hanging barriers. Overnight shipping common. Prices vary by size and design	Web: www.uline.ca/BL_3176/Safety-Shields
Koncept Sign Group, Saskatoon	Contact for a quote. Average lead time is 14-18 business days.	Koncept Sign Group Tel: 306-242-7100 Web: www.konceptsigngroup.com

CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

Local occupant cleaning protocols must include disinfection of barriers. This service is not provided by Facilities.

Follow manufacturer instructions for the installation, cleaning, and use of the barrier. Ensure that the cleaning process will not cause damage or cause degradation of the barrier.

SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR USASK

Safety Resources is available for workplace assessments regarding COVID-19 prevention or any other occupational health and safety concerns. Please contact safetyresources@usask.ca with questions.

⚠ Although they will not be providing procurement or installation service, if there are questions or concerns regarding the installation of barriers, contact Facilities at facilities.support@usask.ca.