

## GUIDANCE – UTILIZATION OF SPACE

One of the primary modifications we all need to accommodate given COVID-19 guidance related to social distancing is the max group size of 10 people.

According to the ND Early Childhood Services Policy Manual (policy 620-01-85-10):

“Areas occupied by groups must be defined by permanent walls, movable walls, or other partitions approved by the licenser and early childhood regional supervisor. Effective January 1, 2015, all programs will have to comply with this policy.”

LINK <http://www.nd.gov/dhs/policymanuals/62001/62001.htm#620-01-85-10.htm?Highlight=wall>

While there is no modification needed to the overall s.f. requirement that childcare providers already adhere to, many providers will have to think creatively about how they might be able to use their space in a way that meets CDC guidance and health/safety guidelines in ND code.

Here are a few examples of what meets the requirements of a “partition” or “movable wall”.

**Shelving units** can be used as long as they are heavy enough not to tip over and injure a child, they can also be reinforced using two shelves back to back.



### CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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**Accordion Walls** are a good option this type of wall would meet all regulations and is not a tipping hazard.



**Privacy Panels and Room Dividers** these need to be heavy enough not to pose a tipping hazard.



Please reach out to your licensor or to Child Care Aware for advice and ideas as you think about how to modify your setting to adhere to CDC guidelines.

<http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/childcare/>

[www.ndchildcare.org](http://www.ndchildcare.org)