

You may choose to have this discussion with an individual or an entire group, whichever is appropriate to the situation.

Request everyone's cooperation and understanding to voluntarily avoid the use of scented products in the area.

Discuss the benefits of a scent-reduced work area.

Implement measures to reasonably accommodate those who are affected by scented products.

For meetings held in enclosed rooms, you may need to send out notices to attendees requesting them to be scent-aware.

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## Purpose

Douglas College is committed to a safe and healthy environment for faculty, staff, students and visitors.

This guideline is intended to:

- 1) Increase the awareness within the College community about the potential impact of fragrance chemicals on the health, well-being, productivity and lifestyle of those affected.
- 2) Ask for the voluntary cooperation of employees, students and visitors towards a scent-reduced environment.
- 3) Provide the steps for responding to scent-related issues.

## What is the issue?

Exposure to perfumes and other scented products can trigger serious health reactions in individuals with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities.

Fragrances are found in a wide range of products. Common scented products include perfume, cologne, aftershave, hairspray, body spray, makeup and powders. Examples of other products with added scents include air fresheners, fabric softeners, laundry detergents, cleaners, carpet deodorizers, facial tissues, and candles.

It is a personal choice to use fragrances; however, fragrance chemicals are by their very nature shared. The chemicals vaporize into the air and are easily inhaled by those around us. Scented products are made up of a complex mixture of chemicals that can contribute to indoor air quality problems and cause health problems.

Some of these fragrance chemicals are known to be skin sensitizers. Some are also respiratory tract irritants, and can trigger asthma and breathing difficulties. Asthmatics commonly cite fragrances as initiating or exacerbating their asthma.

Fragrances are also implicated in vascular changes that can trigger migraines in susceptible individuals. Individuals with chemical sensitivities can experience symptoms at very low levels in the air, far below those kpi)(c)-(4)-(e)-(7)-(5e)(4-3)(56)-(th)TBT1re6)-(0)116)(6 t)(4)-(e a)-(75-3(uh)-(e a)-(75-3(f)-(66-10)10-10rtr aBT1 ef1 3616TETBTBT1 -3e k)-10)(c)-(4)-(e ETBT1 00).