

Columbia College Scent-Awareness

Occupational Health & Safety Guiding Practice

Suggested techniques for enhanced worker safety and respecting the health of others.

Scent Free Awareness

Columbia College is dedicated to providing a healthy, safe, and productive work environment for employees, students, visitors, and volunteers. Due to the health concerns arising from exposure to scented products, Columbia College is raising awareness about workplace best practices regarding using scented products.

The use of scented products can affect indoor air quality and negatively affect the health of other staff, students, visitors, or volunteers. Those who are more sensitive to certain scents may have a serious reaction to those scents. Their adverse reactions could include:

- Headaches
- Dizziness, light headedness
- Nausea
- Upper respiratory symptoms
- Shortness of breath
- Skin irritation

Ingredients or chemicals used to produce scents are present in a large range of products, including:

- Colognes and aftershaves
- Fragrances and perfumes
- Hairsprays
- Lotions and creams
- Air fresheners and deodorizers
- Oils
- Candles
- Strongly scented flowers
- Dryer sheets

Please minimize and, if needed, avoid wearing or using scented items at the College especially if others inform you that such products seem to be having an adverse effect on them.

Please note: Although the College is asking that non-scented products be used, it is important that staff and students continue good hygiene practices to maintain a healthy environment for everyone