
Scent Reduction Initiative

PURPOSE

In consideration of indoor air quality and the health of staff, students, and visitors, New Brunswick Community College (NBCC) has adopted the following guidelines related to the use of scented products and fragrances at College facilities and in College-owned vehicles.

The rationale for limiting the use of scented products within NBCC facilities and College-owned vehicles includes the following:

- Many staff, students and visitors are adversely affected to varying degrees by fragrances and scented products.
- Symptoms provoked by fragrances and scented products may include: watery or dry eyes, sneezing and nasal congestion, fatigue, dizziness, muscle and joint pain, headaches/migraines, sinusitis, ear-aches, rash/hives, depression, upper respiratory symptoms, shortness of breath and high blood pressure.
- Permitting the ongoing use of fragrances and scented products in College facilities and College-owned vehicles leaves the erroneous impression that it is not a serious health hazard, and it ignores the rights and health of those affected.
- Fragrances and scents may enter NBCC facilities and College-owned vehicles through a number of mediums. Without awareness and education programs, the chance of reduction is unlikely.
- A scent-reduced environment will help promote a workplace that does not include chemically produced scents and fragrances.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

This initiative encourages all staff, students, and visitors to refrain from wearing or using fragrances or scented products in NBCC facilities and in College owned vehicles.

1.0 DEFINITIONS

None

2.0 IMPLEMENTATION

There are a number of suggested actions that can be taken by NBCC staff, students and visitors that would help reduce the level of fragrances and scents at NBCC facilities and in College-owned vehicles.

NBCC staff can:

- Educate students, visitors, and co-workers as to the issues related to scent reduction and to identify those actions that may assist in reducing the use of fragrances and scents. NBCC facilities and College-owned vehicles.
- Ensure supervisors review the scent reduction initiative with new staff during orientation.
- Foster an environment that encourages employees to make their scent sensitivity known to their supervisor and other employees.

- Purchase office and cleaning supplies that are scent-reduced or fragrance-free, whenever possible.

As individuals, we can:

- Refrain from wearing scented products such as perfume, cologne, and aftershave lotion. Instead, use scent-reduced or fragrance-free personal products.
- Be sensitive to the health and well-being of co-workers, students and visitors who may have allergies, or sensitivities to various scents and fragrances.
- Remove all scented items, such as potpourri, candles, air fresheners, etc., from NBCC facilities and College-owned vehicles.
- Make your scent sensitivity known to your supervisor, as well as other staff or students. Staff should consult with their supervisor and the Wellbeing Coordinator if an at-work accommodation is required. Students should consult with the Learning Strategist if an accommodation is required due to a scent sensitivity.
- Strive to use office and cleaning supplies that are scent-reduced or fragrance-free, whenever possible.
- Politely inform visitors in advance that NBCC promotes a scent-reduced environment and ask them to refrain from wearing or using fragrances or scented products while at NBCC facilities.
- Be consistent with the terminology that we use to promote a scent-reduced environment: it is scent-reduced, not scent-free as we cannot guarantee a scent-free environment.

NBCC Facilities and Ancillary Services Team will:

- Work toward ASHRAE standards for ventilation in areas that produce noxious fumes and/or other strong scents.
- Post the “*Be Air Aware*” (Appendix A) placards promoting a scent-reduced environment in prominent areas throughout NBCC facilities.
- Post the initiative guidelines on NBCC@work.
- Ensure that lease and rental agreements include specified terms related to use of scents and fragrances.
- Work with the Learning Strategists and Wellbeing Coordinator to implement accommodations as required. This could include postings such as “*STOP, People in this area are sensitive to scents*” (Appendix B) placard near the entrance to your office, classroom or work area identifying a building occupant’s sensitivity to scented products.

3.0 COMPREHENSIVENESS

The Scent Reduction Initiative is part of a comprehensive approach by the College-wide Joint Health and Safety Committee to inform and educate stakeholders as to the need and benefits of a scent-reduced workplace. The Scent Reduction Initiative applies to all campus facilities (including leased space and satellite locations) and College-owned vehicles.

APPENDIX A

<https://www.ccohs.ca/products/posters/pdfs/airaware.pdf>



Be Air Aware

... because we share the air

Scented products can aggravate health problems for some people, especially those with asthma, allergies and other medical conditions.

CCOHS  1-800-668-4284 www.ccohs.ca
Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety

Any document appearing in paper form is uncontrolled and must be compared to the electronic version.

APPENDIX B

<http://www.lung.ca/file/973/download?token=LHLMsWYt>

