



Prairie Rose School Division recognizes that exposure to perfumes and other scented products can trigger serious health reactions in individuals with asthma, allergies, migraines and/or chemical sensitivity. Fragrances are found in a wide range of products including both personal products (perfume, cologne, aftershave, deodorant, soap, shampoo, hairspray, body spray, make-up and powders) and general products (air fresheners, fabric softeners, laundry detergents, cleaners, carpet deodorizers and/or facial tissue).

In an effort to provide a safe and healthy environment for all staff, students and visitors, Prairie Rose School Division commits to:

- Strongly encourage all staff, students and visitors to avoid or reduce the use of fragrance products and replace them with unscented alternatives.
- Promote the reduction of unnecessary use of chemicals.
- Promote the use of environmentally friendly materials and products.
- Target harmful chemicals and implement controls to effectively prevent or minimize their release into the general air as a result of building, maintenance, custodial and teaching activities.
- Support the best possible air quality practicably attainable, by means of proper ventilation and maintenance of building mechanical ventilation systems.

**BE**

**SCENT**

**Aware**

**Let's share the air**

***How to be scent aware:***

- Be considerate of those who are sensitive to fragrances.
- If you do use scented products, use them sparingly. A general guideline is that the scent should be not be detectable more than one arm's length away from you and do not apply scented products in a public area.
- Avoid using products that give off chemical-based scents in your work area.
- Avoid using laundry or cleaning agents that are scented and air out dry cleaned clothing before wearing.

What to do if you are scent sensitive:

- Comfortably approach the scented individual and let him/her know how you react to fragrances.
- Inform your supervisor or instructor of your sensitivities, your symptoms and the types of exposures that improve or worsen your symptoms.
- Consult with your physician about your symptoms.
- Consult the resources listed in this guideline for further information or assistance.

Be Air

Aware

If you are an employee who is approached about the use of your scent product:

- a) Be aware that exposure to scented products can cause symptoms in certain individuals.
- b) Even if surprised and/or take aback when approached, listen to co-workers in a non-defensive way.
- c) Learn as much as possible about the types of scented products that cause your co-workers to experience symptoms.
- d) Be understanding of the concern and willing to reach a resolution in a co-operative manner.

What to do if you are approached about your scent:

- If someone informs you that the fragrance products that you use or wear are a problem, understand that it is not about you as a person or about your choice of fragrance but it is about the chemicals in the fragrance product.
- Discuss the issue openly. Ask questions about the health impact on the person, the types of symptoms experienced, the factors which make the person's symptoms better/worse.
- Empathize with the individual, work with cooperation and understanding towards a satisfactory resolution.

