
Working Towards a Scent-Reduced Campus Environment

INTRODUCTION

College of the Rockies is committed to cultivating a culture of health, safety and wellbeing.

The College has become increasingly aware of the health impacts associated with exposure to strongly scented products, especially for those with environmental allergies or sensitivities.

- Headaches
- Coughing
- Difficulty breathing
- Dizziness
- Inability to concentrate
- Irritability
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Nausea
- Light-headedness
- Anxiety
- Skin irritation

To promote a healthy and safe campus environment, everyone who accesses College spaces and events is encouraged to avoid the use of strongly scented products which may include:

Strongly scented personal products

- Colognes and aftershaves
- Laundry detergents
- Body lotions
- Soaps
- Perfumes
- Fabric softeners
- Perfumed deodorants
- Hair products

Strongly scented non-personal products

- Air fresheners/potpourri
- Flowers
- Candles
- Marker pens

Strongly scented work products

- Cleaning products
- Paint products
- Adhesives and lubricants
- Soaps and hand sanitizers
- Art products
- Construction materials

The initiative is not intended to, nor should it be used to, address personal scent preferences.

RESPONSIBILITIES

To make this initiative a success, different people have responsibilities to cultivate health, safety and wellbeing at the College.

The College

- Purchase “fragrance-free”, “scent-free”, or “unscented” products whenever possible
- Promote the Scent Reduction Initiative to employees, students, volunteers, contractors and visitors
- Support employees and students and advocate on their behalf when necessary
- Provide prior notice to affected departments when work that is to be performed in their space (cleaning, maintenance, etc.) that necessitates the use of strongly scented products
- Require contractors to use products at the College that are “fragrance-free”, “scent-free”, or “unscented” whenever possible

Management

- Add the Scent Reduction Initiative as a health and safety topic to department meetings annually or as scent-related health issues are identified
- Work with Human Resources to develop safety measures when an allergy or sensitivity to scent is identified
- Ensure that students, employees, volunteers, contractors and visitors are following safety measures put in place

Students, Employees, Visitors, or Volunteers

- Avoid the use of strongly scented perfumes, colognes, aftershaves, and lotions when on campus or at a College event
- Switch to using “fragrance-free”, “scent-free”, or “unscented” versions of personal products when (you wear them) on campus or at a College event whenever possible
- Respect safety notices posted in specific areas of the College regarding avoidance of the use of strongly scented products
- Raise issues related to strongly scented products:
 - Students should contact Student Services for assistance.
 - Employees, Visitors, or Volunteers should contact a Manager or a Human Resources representative for assistance.

Joint Health and Safety Committee

- Promote the Scent Reduction Initiative

Contractors

- Respect safety notices posted in specific areas of the College regarding avoidance of the use of strongly scented products
- Avoid the use of strongly scented products when working at the College
- Switch to using “fragrance-free”, “scent-free”, or “unscented” versions of products
- Provide reasonable, prior notice when work involves strongly scented products, or work that may cause strong scents, which may include odors or fumes

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)**1. How do I know if my scented personal product is strongly scented?**

- A general rule of thumb is scented personal products should be for your enjoyment and should not be detected more than an arm’s length away from you.

2. Why should I adhere to the scent reduction initiative?

- You are acting to cultivate health, safety and wellbeing for everyone.
- You are being considerate towards and are respecting people who have environmental allergies and sensitivities and who, as a result, have serious health impacts from strongly scented products.

3. I’ve been approached about the scented product I’m wearing or using. What should I do?

- Try to understand the issue is not about you as a person or your choice of scent, rather it’s about chemical(s) in the product that may affect the health, safety or wellbeing of another person.
- Be open to the conversation and to doing something to address the health, safety or wellbeing issues that have been raised.
- You can ask for assistance from Student Services or Human Resources representatives or from the relevant Manager.

4. Why promote a ‘Scent Reduction Initiative’ rather than a ‘Scent-Free Initiative’?

- Some scents may be perfectly acceptable and do not create any health, safety or wellbeing impacts.

5. What should I do if someone in my space is wearing or using strongly scented products?

- You can ask the person to move a meeting to be over the phone or via Teams.
- You can bring the Scent Reduction Initiative to their attention.
- You can ask for assistance from Student Services or Human Resources representatives or from the relevant Manager.