St. Charles Parish Public Schools
Fragrance - Free Protocol

Rationale

St. Charles Parish Public Schools recognizes the importance of implementing a protocol to provide a fragrance-free environment to all. As stated by The American Lung Association, the academic success of a student can be directly linked to his or her health. For this reason, it is imperative that St. Charles Parish Public Schools ensure the wellbeing and safety of all its students and employees to support a positive learning environment and workplace. In order to create this, St. Charles Parish Public Schools intends to protect the indoor and outdoor air quality of its campus as best possible. Strong scents and fragrances can contribute to poor indoor air quality that can be unhealthy to all students and school staff.

Overview

Many people experience unpleasant physical effects from scented products and a growing number of people suffer more severe reactions to these types of products and chemicals. This condition known as multiple chemical sensitivities (MCS) involves people who have developed an acute sensitivity to various chemicals in the environment. People with MCS experience a range of debilitating physical reactions, some even life threatening, to chemicals used in a variety of scented materials, including fragrances and chemical products. People often experience mild/ moderate or even severe allergic reactions, known as anaphylaxis from some of the irritants.

Management

Allergy and asthmatic students, as well as those with other conditions, report that certain odors, even in the smallest amounts can trigger an episode. Some people may report mild irritation while others are incapacitated and /or must give up “normal” activities in order to avoid exposure (such as going to public places)

Common Triggers or Allergens:

- Essential oils
- Strong scents (cleaning products)
- Strong fragrances (hand sanitizers, soaps, cologne, perfume, scented lotions, hair products, candles, air fresheners, plug ins)

Symptoms may include one or more of the following:

- Headaches
- Nausea
- Weakness
- Malaise
- Loss of appetite
- Upper respiratory symptoms
- Difficulty with concentration
- Numbness
- Shortness of breath
- Skin irritation
- Itching
- Coughing

***** more severe symptoms are difficulty breathing, lip and/or tongue swelling**

Procedure

All teachers, students, and staff members are asked not to bring cleaning products, deodorizers or other personal care products into the classroom unless they are identified as fragrance-free or mildly fragranced. In addition, the use of cleaning products with strong scents will be during off-peak school hours. If strong scented cleaning materials are used, the school will send a notification to students, parents, and staff. If a specific scent affects a student or employee, we ask that school staff eliminate the cause of the offensive odor.