

# Supporting Safe Environments

Bluewater Health believes every effort should be made to protect the health and safety of our patients, visitors, staff, Professional Staff, and volunteers. Bluewater Health's policies to support safe environments include fragrance-reduced workplace, no smoking and latex free policies. Abiding by these policies is the responsibility of every person that enters hospital facilities.

## Fragrance Reduced Workplace Policy

Personal fragrances can cause health risks. Some individuals are sensitive to various scents. "Scent sensitivity" is a hypersensitivity to common chemical and environmental stimuli. Bluewater Health's Fragrance Reduced Workplace Policy aims to provide an environment free of personal fragrances that may cause a health hazard, such as allergic reaction, migraine, fatigue, rashes, dizziness and difficulty breathing.

### Personal fragrance refers to:

- Perfume/cologne
- Body spray
- Lotion
- Scented hair products (e.g. shampoo, conditioner, hair spray, gel, mousse, oil)
- Deodorant
- Diffusers
- Essential Oils
- Laundry detergent/fabric softener/laundry scent boosters
- Scented medical ointments/creams
- Air fresheners/deodorizers
- Candles
- Paints
- Flowers (e.g. lilies)
- Cosmetics
- Cleaning products
- Disinfectants
- Smoke

For the comfort and health of patients, visitors, staff, Professional Staff, volunteers, and community partners, please refrain from wearing fragrances when visiting hospital facilities in Petrolia and Sarnia. The Bluewater Health Fragrance Reduced Workplace Policy is found on the hospital's Policy & Document Management System (PDMS). If you are a patient or visitor to Bluewater Health and would like to view the policy, please contact the Patient Experience Office at 519-464-4436.

## No Smoking Policy

Smoking causes health risks. Bluewater Health's No Smoking Policy prohibits the use of tobacco products by all persons within Bluewater Health sites, and on all hospital-maintained property, including parking lots. Under the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* hospital grounds must be completely smoke-free effective January 1, 2018.

All staff, Professional Staff and volunteers are responsible for reporting any violation of this policy. Prior to reporting anyone who is found violating the policy, all staff, Professional Staff and volunteers of Bluewater Health should direct the individual who is smoking to the nearest public property if they wish to continue smoking.

The Bluewater Health No Smoking Policy is found on the PDMS. If you are a patient or visitor to Bluewater Health and would like to view the policy, please contact the Patient Experience Office at 519-464-4436.

## Latex-free Policy

Allergies to latex rubber have been identified as a serious concern. While most reactions are mild and local in nature, some individuals may develop more severe contact or systemic reactions. Bluewater Health's Latex Sensitivity Policy aims to establish guidelines for assessing, diagnosing and managing latex sensitivity in the healthcare setting.

Latex can be found in products such as balloons and gloves, identified as having a latex content. Please do not bring latex balloons onto hospital property. Mylar balloons (the shiny foil type) do not contain latex and are permitted.

The Bluewater Health Latex Allergy Policy may be found on the PDMS. If you are a patient or visitor to Bluewater Health and would like to view the policy, please contact the Patient Experience Office at 519-464-4453

Thank you for supporting Bluewater Health's safe environment policies.