



**Part
7A**

Making Dance and Music Spaces Accessible to Participants with Chemical Sensitivities: A Brief Summary

Chemical sensitivity is an invisible disability that affects around 30% of the population. For those people, the presence of scented products (perfumes, hair products, deodorants, laundry products, anything with a scent) is a significant barrier to access. Making your space accessible to those with chemical sensitivities is easier than you might think. Here is a quick overview to help you dive in and start with harm reduction:

1. **Adopt** a fragrance-free policy and let people know about it—on your website, in announcements, flyers, signs, etc.
2. **Ask** participants not to use scented products before attending; be detailed enough that they understand that skipping the perfume is essential, and so is using only unscented laundry products, fragrance-free hand sanitizer and deodorants, etc.
3. **Provide** fragrance-free products for handwashing at your events, and any other products that are regularly used. (Lotion? Hand sanitizer? At longer/residential events, things like shampoo and conditioner, shower gel, deodorant—any products participants would bring with them should be fragrance-free, and it's best to make that easy by providing safe products.)
4. **Remove** or block off scented products that normally live in your venue. Scented soaps can be moved or dispensers taped off; scent devices removed, closed, or blocked off.
5. **Ventilate** as much as possible to help mitigate inevitable scents that come in or remain from prior use.
6. **Communicate** with dancers and musicians in your community who are impacted by these issues; find out what they need, as sensitivities can vary by individual. Have a plan for who they can safely talk to if they're having a reaction, and who can talk to dancers who don't know about or have difficulty with the policy and show up wearing scents. Planning how you will handle issues can make a challenging situation a little easier on everyone.
7. **Know** that your care and effort for equity and inclusion of people with invisible disabilities like chemical sensitivities matters so much and is greatly appreciated.

Want to learn more? This task group has provided a [thorough description of the issues](#), a [detailed guide to implementation in different types of dance events](#), and a [list of suggested products and some tips for sourcing](#) to partially answer the question, "Then what *can* we use?"

Thank you for being willing to consider making your events accessible to dancers and musicians who are affected by chemical/fragrance sensitivities.

