

People with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS)

NOT ALL DISABILITIES ARE APPARENT.

A person may make a request or act in a way that seems strange to you.

That behavior may be disability related.

* For example,

You may give seemingly simple directions to someone, but the person asks you to write them down.

They may have a learning disability that makes written communication easier for them. Or someone may ask you not to use spray-cleaning products on your restaurant tables while they are sitting there.

They may have asthma or multiple chemical sensitivity.

Even though these disabilities are hidden, they are real.

Please respect the person's needs and requests whenever possible.

Try to avoid using sprays or other fuming products when customers are in your place of business.

PEOPLE WITH MCS REACT TO TOXINS IN THE AIR.

Fumes from cleaning products, perfume, New carpeting, air freshener or even the fumes from magic markers can trigger a severe reaction.

Try to avoid spray-cleaning tables, windows or other surfaces while people are in your place of business.

If you must use a spray product, spray or pour it closely into a cloth, not into the air.

Use less-toxic products when possible.

Request that staff who have contact with the public go easy on fragranced body-care products like cologne, hair spray, hand lotion and after-shave.

Maintaining good ventilation and overall good indoor air quality will not only benefit your customers who have MCS and respiratory disabilities, it will also help you and all your employees stay healthier and more alert.

Second-hand smoke can be harmful to people with MCS or respiratory disabilities such as asthma or emphysema.

Follow and enforce no-smoking regulations, including in rest rooms and stairwells.

Discourage smokers from congregating at the entrance to your business.

If appropriate, designate a separate smoking area where the door is kept closed and the air ventilates to the outside.