



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Your child's school has been chosen to take part in the 2012/2013 Youth Smoking Survey (YSS).

The survey will ask students to respond to questions about tobacco use, bullying, school connectedness, self-esteem, healthy eating and physical activity and drug and alcohol use (for grades 7-12). Students provide their responses on their own with no one seeing what they write and they do not put their name on the questionnaire. Students will seal their survey answers in an envelope. Their answers will help the research team gather details about youth smoking in Canada.

The Youth Smoking Survey is approved by both the school board and school. The survey is being done on behalf of Health Canada.

Please read the details below and decide if you will agree to have your child complete the survey.

Details about the Youth Smoking Survey (YSS)

- The YSS is a survey of students in Grades 6 to 12.
- The survey takes 30 minutes to complete. Students will complete the survey in a classroom with a teacher there to supervise, on a date chosen by the school.
- The survey asks students questions about tobacco use, bullying, school connectedness, self-esteem, healthy eating and physical activity
- Students in grades 7 to 12 are also asked questions about drug and alcohol use.
- You or your child can refuse to take part in the survey at any time, with no penalty. Students will not be part of the survey if a parent decides they should not do so OR if the student does not agree to take part.
- For Module B (Grades 7-12): Although we do not anticipate any risks from participation in this study, you should be aware that taking part in the survey may expose your son or daughter to information on topics which are new.
- For Module A (Grade 6): There are no known or anticipated risks from participation in this study.
- You can see a copy of the survey questions in the school's main office or on the YSS website at www.yss.uwaterloo.ca.

Confidentiality and Privacy of Students' Survey Responses

Your child's name will not appear with the responses provided to the questions and there is no way of identifying your child's responses as theirs. Students give their answers privately with no one seeing their responses. Their responses will not be given to their teacher or anyone else at the school.

The results of the survey will only be reported in group form. The school will receive a comprehensive *School Health Profile* outlining key results, recommended actions and resources for school administrators, teachers, parents and students. One-page summaries of these results are also provided to share with parents and other community members.

The data we gather from the survey will be stored at the University of Waterloo for 7 years. Only research staff will have access to the written surveys. Electronic data will be kept for an unknown period of time and will be available to the public.

Permission

You and your son or daughter are the only ones who will decide whether to be part of the Youth Smoking Survey, or not. If your child is the legal age of consent, they have the legal right to decide about the survey on their own.

If you do **NOT** want your child or children to complete the Youth Smoking Survey, or if you have any questions about the survey, please contact the site coordinator listed below. If you leave a phone message, please include:

- your child or children's name(s)
- your child or children's grade
- the name of their school, and
- the name of their teacher.

Contact Information

The Office of Research Ethics at the University of Waterloo has provided ethics clearance for this survey. If you or your child has any concerns about the survey, contact the Director of the University of Waterloo Office of Research Ethics at 519-888-4567 ext 36005.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. To view further project details, the student questionnaire and a sample *School Health Profile*, visit the YSS on the web at www.yss.uwaterloo.ca.

Sincerely,

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