

January 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: **2018 BC Adolescent Health Survey**

Your child's class has been invited to take part in a youth health survey. McCreary Centre Society is a BC charity. We carry out the survey every five years. We use the results to improve youth health in your community and across BC. Schools, government and communities use the information for planning programs.

We are inviting over 40,000 British Columbia students in Grades 7–12 to take part. Participation is voluntary. Your child may choose whether or not to take part.

The survey takes about 30–40 minutes. A nurse will pass out the surveys, and students will fill it in by themselves. Question topics include feelings about school, family, physical and mental health, sexual health, substance use, injuries and activities, violence and discrimination, and technology use.

The survey is confidential and anonymous. Students do not put their name on the questionnaire. No one will be able to link answers to a particular student. However, if students choose to write their names on the survey, and say they were abused or are thinking about suicide, we have to report this to keep them safe.

Only staff and researchers connected to McCreary Centre Society will have access to the surveys. We will keep the surveys in locked offices at McCreary Centre Society for at least 5 years and then they will be shredded. Electronic data will be stored longer. Reports and fact sheets of survey results will be posted on [www.mcs.bc.ca](http://www.mcs.bc.ca).

You or your child will not benefit directly from taking part, but if they do take part, they ensure young people have a voice in planning services and programs and will help make change where it is needed. There might be a risk of another student peeking at your son or daughter's responses, or they may feel some questions are sensitive. The nurse will be available to respond to any questions or concerns students may have. Students are also given a card with contact information for support services.

A list of question topics and the reasons why we are asking them is available on our website ([www.mcs.bc.ca](http://www.mcs.bc.ca)). You can also look at a copy of the survey in the school principal's office. If you have any concerns or complaints about your child's rights as a research participant or their experiences while participating in this study, contact the Research Participant Complaint Line in the UBC Office of Research Ethics at 604-822-8598 or if long distance e-mail [RSIL@ors.ubc.ca](mailto:RSIL@ors.ubc.ca) or call toll free 1-877-822-8598.

Thank you,



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