



FACULTY OF EDUCATION

LETTER OF INFORMATION AND CONSENT FOR PARENTS (PASSIVE CONSENT)

Study Title: The Health Behaviour in School-aged Children (HBSC) Study

Name of Researcher: Dr. William Pickett, Public Health Sciences, Queen's University

The Social Program and Evaluation Group (SPEG) at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario has been collecting information about the health and health behaviours of adolescents in Grades 6-10 every four years (since 1990) as part of a large cross-national effort. The purpose of the research is to compare the health and health behaviours of adolescents across time and across countries and provinces/territories. We would like your child to take part in this research by completing an anonymous survey (online or paper-based) about his or her health and health behaviours that is expected to take 60 minutes, during regular class time. There are no known risks to your child for taking part in this study. While there are no direct benefits to your child, results from the study will provide information to help improve adolescents' health and positively change their health behaviours.

There is no obligation for you to say yes to have your child take part in this study. Your child does not have to answer any questions he or she doesn't want to. Your child can stop filling in the survey and withdraw from the study without penalty. Your child cannot withdraw from the study after submitting the survey. If you **do not wish** your child to participate, please return the attached consent form. If your child does not participate, he or she will be given an alternative activity to complete during the time.

We will keep your child's data securely for at least five years. Your child's confidentiality will be protected to the extent possible by replacing the school name associated with your child's anonymous survey with a school number that will be used in the dataset. The code list linking school names with school numbers will be stored separately and securely from the data. Only the HBSC Research Team who have signed Confidentiality Agreements will have access to any of the data.

We hope to publish results of this study in reports, academic journals, professional publications, newsletters, books and instructional materials. We also intend to present findings from this study at conferences. Names of participants, schools, and school boards will not be identified in any publications or presentations. Thank you for considering this request to have your child participate in the HBSC study.

If you have any ethics concerns, please contact the General Research Ethics Board (GREB) at 1-844-535-2988 (Toll free in North America) or chair.GREB@queensu.ca.

If you have any questions about the research, please contact William Pickett at pickettw@queensu.ca or 613-533-6000 ext. 79551.

Please complete this form only if you do not grant permission to your child to participate in this study, and have your child return this form to his or her classroom teacher at your earliest convenience.

I **do not agree** to allow my son/daughter to participate in this study.

Child's name: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____