



Dear School Nurse:

The Maine Department of Education, in collaboration with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, is pleased to announce the fifth administration of the Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey (MIYHS). Over 96,000 students from 292 different schools participated in the previous MIYHS. Your <<SCHOOL>> has been chosen as part of the Kindergarten/ 3rd grade and 5th/6th grade samples.

**The benefits of your school's participation in this effort include:**

- Each school that participates is contributing to on-going data that gives us comprehensive information on the health status of Maine's children and helps in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health interventions.
- For the 5th/6th grade module, if your school (and/or SAU) has at least 50 students taking the survey, we can provide information on your school's (and/or SAU's) results, as long as we are able to maintain student confidentiality and minimum participation rates for your school (and/or SAU) are met.
- Only state level data will be available for the Kindergarten/ 3rd grade survey due to the small sample size that is selected for that module.
- Having local data helps with: advocating for healthy policies and resources; acknowledging successes in your community; evaluating existing health framework; and raising awareness of health issues.
- Schools receive a reimbursement to cover the cost of postage for USPS mailings of the consent letters and survey information to student's homes.

**Here are some things to know about the 2017 survey:**

- The K/3rd grade survey module can be administered anytime between December, 2016 and April, 2017. The 5th/6th grade survey module will be administered between February 6th and 18th, 2017.
- Your principal has been contacted regarding your school being selected to participate in this survey.
- We are pleased to inform you that this year there will be assistance provided for the screening parts of the survey.
- You and your school administration are encouraged to participate in the survey. If you and your school administration agree, you will receive a 'MIYHS Administration Manual for School Nurses' which will tell you everything you need to know about your role in administering the survey.

**There will be a one hour informational meeting about the 2017 MIYHS at the School Oral Health Program Fall meetings.**

If you have any questions please feel free to contact one of the following MIYHS staff:

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We look forward to working with you throughout this project and appreciate your cooperative efforts.

Sincerely,

Reid Plimpton

MIYHS Project Coordinator

Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention

