

September 13, 2018

To the parents or guardians of Bristol County Agricultural High School students:

We would like to invite your child to participate in two short electronic surveys to evaluate their behaviors, attitudes, and beliefs regarding alcohol and drug use and related harms. As you may know, the state of Massachusetts has recently passed legislation that requires the administration of a Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment Program (SBIRT) in all middle and high schools in the Commonwealth. The Student Services staff will briefly survey students on their substance use behaviors and provide education regarding alcohol and drug use to 10th grade students during the 2018-2019 school year. The feedback from both staff and students in past years has been very positive, and Bristol County Agricultural High School is now partnering with Dr. Sharon Levy, Dr. Elissa Weitzman, and Dr. Lauren Wisk, researchers at Boston Children's Hospital, to evaluate the SBIRT program across schools and learn more about the differences between grades who receive SBIRT this school year versus those who may receive the screening in subsequent grades.

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, requires to notify you and allow you to opt your child out of participating in a student survey. The surveys, one baseline survey and one follow-up survey, take approximately 15 minutes each. The baseline survey will be administered on September 21st and 24th and the follow-up survey will be administered three months later in January. The surveys are *anonymous* and ask students questions about drug and alcohol use behaviors in addition to questions about their perspectives on screening. The surveys also ask questions of a demographic nature concerning the number of parents/guardians that the student lives with and their highest levels of education completed. All parents/guardians have the right, upon request, to review a copy of this survey. You may submit a request to eliza.nelson@childrens.harvard.edu to review the survey template.

This survey is optional for each student. **If you do not wish for your child to participate in the survey, please read and complete the parent/guardian opt-out form. If we do not receive notification that you would like to opt-out your child from participation, your permission will be implied and your child will be contacted to complete the survey.** Your child will also be given the choice to opt out of the survey for themselves at the time the survey is administered. Choosing to decline participation in this research will in no way affect your child's education or relationship with the school. If your child does participate, all responses will be strictly confidential. We will not collect any of your child's personal information (name, birthday, etc.). Data will be stored securely at Boston Children's Hospital. The survey questions will be reviewed by the school district and approved by the Institutional Review Board (IRB) at Boston Children's Hospital.

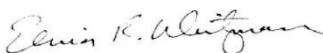
As an adopter of this program, Bristol County Agricultural High School has a very unique and exciting opportunity to help inform the implementation and increase the success of the program statewide.

If you have any questions please contact Beth Boudreau or contact the research study coordinator, Eliza Nelson, at eliza.nelson@childrens.harvard.edu.

Thank you for your consideration.



Sharon Levy, MD, MPH
Associate Professor of Pediatrics



Elissa Weitzman, ScD, MSc
Associate Professor of Pediatrics



Lauren Wisk, PhD
Instructor of Pediatrics

Resources available for parents and students:

- District Nurse leader: Karyn Wilson
- School adjustment counselor: Beth Boudreau

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255 (available 24/7)
 - To chat to someone online, visit: <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>
- MetroWest Advocates Mental Health Emergency Services Program: 1-800- 640-5432 (24/7)
- MA Substance Abuse Information and Education: 1-800-327-5050 (M-F 8a-10p, WKND 8a-6p)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Helpline: 1-800-662-4357 (24/7)

- Websites:
 - <http://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline>; <https://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/>
 - National Institute on Drug Abuse: How do I know if I have a problem?: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/treatment/what-to-do-if-you-have-problem-drugs-teens-young-adults>
 - The Center for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets.htm>

PARENT/GUARDIAN OPT-OUT FORM

Date: September 21 and September 24, 2018

Grades: 10

Activity: School SBIRT Evaluation Survey

Summary: This is an anonymous survey that asks students questions about drug and alcohol use behaviors in addition to questions about their perspectives on screening. The survey also asks questions of a demographic nature concerning the number of parents/guardians that the student lives with and their highest levels of education completed.

If you do not want your child to take the survey on or around September 21 and 24, 2018

A parent must Contact and inform Beth Boudreau (bboudreau@bcahs.com) and Study Coordinator, Eliza Nelson (eliza.nelson@childrens.harvard.edu)] **via e-mail no later than September 19, 2018.**

OR

Sign and return this opt-out form to Attn: Beth Boudreau via mail with a **postmark date no later than September 16, 2018.**

I _____ choose to **opt out** my child, _____ from participating in
[parent/guardian name] [child's name]
the School SBIRT Evaluation Survey on or about September 21 or 24, 2018.