

Harpswell Community School
M.S.A.D. No. 75
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Dear Parent:

In February, the Kindergarten and 3rd grade students in our school will be taking part in an **anonymous** health data collection survey. An anonymous survey is when the students do not give us their names. About 92,000 Maine students have been asked to take a written health survey, but our school will only be providing height, weight, and oral health information about our students. Below are the answers to some questions you may have about this health data collection survey.

What data is being collected?

At school, your child will be asked if (s)he can be measured and weighed. They will also be asked to take part in a basic oral health screening. This screening is not a full dental health exam. It will provide us with information about your child's teeth. School nurses will be assisting us in gathering this information.

Where does this initiative come from?

The health data collection survey of height, weight, and oral health is the joint effort of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Maine Department of Education (DOE). This survey will be used to learn more about all Maine students. The results may be used to get funding, to help decide what programs to offer, or to judge how well current efforts are working.

Why should my child participate?

The results of the health data collection survey will help state programs, community groups, and schools better serve your child.

How can I be sure that participation will not harm my child?

- **Your child is free to participate or not.** If your child chooses to not to participate, the teacher will give your child something else to do during the survey.
- **The data collection method is designed to protect your child's privacy.**
- The data from any one student is never reported individually. No student will ever be mentioned by name in any report.
- No information that connects your child to the measurements will be kept.

What if I have more questions about the survey?

- If you have questions, you may call the school office to set a meeting time before the data collection date or visit the MIYHS website: www.maine.gov/MIYHS

- If you have questions for DHHS/MCDC or DOE, you may call Reid Plimpton (MCDC) at 207-287-5084 or Jean Zimmerman (DOE) at 207-624-6687.
- If you have questions about your rights or your child's rights as part of this survey, you may call the USM Human Protections Administrator at (207) 228-8434 and/or email usmorio@maine.edu. The Institutional Review Board (IRB) at the University of Southern Maine has approved the use of this survey. The IRB is responsible for protecting the rights and welfare of survey participants.

If you do not wish your child to take part in the MIYHS health data collection survey, please contact the school office. If we do not hear from you, your consent to your child's participation is assumed. Your child can also decide not to participate on the day the MIYHS health data collection survey is conducted.

Sincerely,

Anita Hopkins