



Health, Seniors and Active Living

Health Equity and Prevention Unit
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April 20, 2018

With the legalization of Cannabis approaching this summer, Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (Healthy Schools Initiative) and Manitoba Education and Training in partnership with the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, are pleased to provide the attached resources for use and distribution in your school community. Recognizing that cannabis is an important and perhaps sensitive subject for parents, teachers, counsellors and other youth allies, our aim is to provide current, factual information to help educators and parents inform youth about the potential risks and legal implications of cannabis use.

The 2014/15 Canadian Student Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey (CSTADS), 32% of Manitoba students grades 7 – 12 reported having tried cannabis, which is 10% higher than the national rate. Further, of those who did report using cannabis, 53% indicated they use it once per week or more, again higher than the national rate of 34%. Of concern, is that youth in Manitoba report they are trying cannabis at a young age, 14 years of age on average. Cannabis is increasingly socially acceptable and it appears students may be using cannabis before they are old enough to be able to understand the potential consequences of its use.

As educators, administrators, health care providers and parents, it is a shared responsibility to ensure students are prepared and equipped with current information and evidence informed resources. Recent focus testing done by Health Canada found that youth want accurate, non-judgemental information about cannabis and its potential impacts.

Please share these resources as appropriate within your schools. We hope you will find this information useful and relevant to your school community. If you have any questions or would like more information about cannabis, addictions or where to get support please visit the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba's website: www.afm.mb.ca. If you have questions about or would like information about the Manitoba Healthy Schools Initiative please contact Jennifer Wood, Policy Analyst for Comprehensive School Health at Jennifer.Wood@gov.mb.ca.

Thank you,

Claire Betker
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