November 30, 2021

Dear Administrator,

As Commissioner of the City of Chicago Department of Public Health, I am asking for your school’s participation in the 2022 Illinois Youth Survey (IYS). The IYS is provided at no cost to all Illinois schools and is administered to 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students. An individualized school report is provided only to principals so they can assess school needs and program impacts. Schools have used the IYS since 1994. The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) contracts with the Center for Prevention Research and Development (CPRD) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Social Work to make the survey available to all schools.

COVID-19 stopped administration in March of 2020. All participating schools in the fall of 2022 will receive a confidential report on their schools which will be sent to the person who registered for the school.

The survey provides accurate, reliable data on a variety of health issues and behaviors, including nutrition, physical activity, violence, bullying, and physical and mental health. With this data the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), Chicago Public Schools, other city agencies and community-based non-profits can ensure our limited resources are used in the most effective manner, responding to current and emerging needs in our neighborhoods. This data is also used to help IDHS secure federal funding and compliments the Chicago Department of Health’s city wide initiative Chicago 2.0 which you can find out more about by visiting our website https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/cdph/provdrs/healthychicago.html.

I strongly encourage you to participate in this vital survey. You can register at https://iys.cprd.illinois.edu/register. Your school’s participation will help all of us more effectively improve our work, which will in turn have a direct impact on the health and well-being of our youth and families.

Sincerely,

Allison Arwady, MD
Commissioner