

January 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian/Student,

The P.A.R.T.Y. (Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth) Program is an injury prevention program that provides students with a realistic look at the impact of poor decision-making and the immediate and long term consequences of trauma. Students follow the journey of a trauma victim from injury occurrence, transport, treatment, rehabilitation and community re-integration. Health care professionals and community volunteers that include physicians, nurses, paramedics, police, and trauma survivors share their experiences and provide students with strategies for mitigating risk. Students report that the experience is “eye-opening and positive” and, “a must for all young people”.

Island Health has been delivering the P.A.R.T.Y. Program on Vancouver Island since 2003. Island Health is guided by the values of C.A.R.E. (Courage, Aspire, Respect, and Empathy) and strives for a vision of “Excellent health and care for everyone, everywhere, every time.” Previously the P.A.R.T.Y. Program provided in-hospital, reality-based education. However due to pandemic, the P.A.R.T.Y. Program is being delivered online. While we recognize the limitations of the online experience, we believe that the core P.A.R.T.Y. Program messaging remains intact and accessible, incorporating the themes of **Empowerment, Coping, Resilience and Hope.**

The program refers to real life scenarios and concrete ways students can stay safe. **For any student who has experienced a traumatic incident, participation in this program may not be appropriate and should be carefully considered.** We do encourage students to seek resources and supports if they feel upset by the content of the program. This could include a school counselor, teacher, or parent.

It is important that students eat breakfast and/or lunch prior to attending this workshop. Not eating will affect their ability to learn. It also reduces the chance of them fainting, which, considering the graphic nature of our topics and visuals, is a risk of their attendance at the program.

We may record the online session for training and teaching purposes. At this point, we do not expect to be able to see individual students. However if you do not want your child to be visualised, please inform the school so they can ensure your child’s image is not available.

We invite you to access the Island Health P.A.R.T.Y. Program website: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/our-services/children-youth-services/prevent-alcohol-risk-related-trauma-youth-party> Parents/guardians have found that familiarizing themselves with the content can help them talk to their child about safer decision making.

The P.A.R.T.Y. Program is made possible by the support and generosity of community members and sponsors. If you would like to make a donation or are able to volunteer to help with the operations of the program please contact us.

Thank you in advance for your support. We hope that the online P.A.R.T.Y. Program will be a meaningful experience for your child.

Sincerely,



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