Dear Parents/Guardians:

What is the purpose of the survey? Our school district is working very hard to better understand youth health risk and protective behaviors in the community. As part of this effort, we are asking students in grades 7-12 to participate in an anonymous survey called the Ohio Healthy Youth Environments Survey -- OHYES! Only children age 12 or above are eligible to participate. The OHYES! is a tool designed by the Ohio Departments of Education, Health, and Mental Health and Addiction Services and numerous other programs advocating for youth. Our school has decided to use this survey to understand more about our students.

What is my child being asked to do? We would like your child to answer questions about:

- personal use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, perception of risks, where accessed
- feelings about their school and community
- family and personal relationships, and demographics
- mental health, suicide and access to care
- health-related behaviors (i.e. sleep, nutrition, and exercise)
- The survey can be viewed at the school's office, or online (http://ohyes.ohio.gov/Downloads) – 110 item version

How long will the survey take? The survey includes 110 items; it has been tested with other youth and should take about 15-20 minutes.

Who is doing the survey? The survey is being done by the Coldwater Exempted Village schools. The survey was developed by the Ohio Departments of Education, Health, and Mental Health and Addiction Services.

Does my child have to participate? No, that is a choice for you and your child. But we really want to hear what your child has to say.

How do you protect my child’s privacy? The OHYES! will be confidentially administered by trained school staff. Schools have been instructed on how to protect student anonymity and confidentiality. Please review these instructions at http://ohyes.ohio.gov/Schools/Preparation/Confidentiality.

Will participating help or hurt my child? Many people like sharing their experiences and opinions. Sometimes sharing personal things can be stressful or emotional. The survey instructions state that your child may skip any questions he/she is uncomfortable with or stop the survey at any time; there is a back, next, and quit button on each question screen. There is no penalty for not taking the survey or for stopping.

Who will know what my child shares? Your child’s privacy will be strictly protected. Students are NOT asked for
their name, identification number or date of birth. No one can identify your child’s responses. Data is sent
directly to the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), no data is stored on
school computers; the school does not have access to any individual survey data. OhioMHAS will not be able to
link answers to individual students or report anything they say to parents, teachers, or administrators. The
survey is anonymous and no student will be identified in the results. Student responses will be combined and
reported together. There are also minimum reporting requirements (15 or more respondents).

How does my family and community benefit? OHYES! results will help guide communities in creating and
improving youth health programs in Ohio. The results will be shared with everyone, including families, faculty
and students, and the public. State-level and county-level results will be available to the public at
http://ohyes.ohio.gov/Results. District and school results will only be available to Superintendents and
 Principals with secured access.

Do I have to sign a form for my child to participate? Federal regulations (45 CFR 46) requires parent or guardian
permission for research involving children. To protect you and your child, we require parent notification and
provide parents the ability to opt out their child’s participation. This method is commonly known as passive
consent, and minimizes administrative burden on schools, maintains student confidentiality, and increases
response rates. We hope you will give consent for your child to participate. If so, there is no need to do anything.
If you do NOT want your child to participate in this survey, please sign the form below and list the name of your
child who will NOT participate. A separate form must be filled out for each child.

Does answering the survey influence students to try unhealthy behaviors? Absolutely no research supports
any connection between completing a health behavior survey and trying an unhealthy behavior. You may be
reassured to know that many unhealthy behaviors among young people – including tobacco use, sexual
behaviors, and some forms of violence – have declined since 1991. During that same period, youth surveys
have increased nationwide.

Who can I contact if I have questions? Visit the website at www.ohyes.ohio.gov or email
info@ohyes.ohio.gov. You can also call the OHYES! Team at 1-866-563-6904. You can also call your School
Administration team at 419-678-2611

Sincerely,

Jason Hemmelgarn and Dan Pohlman
PARENT OPT OUT FORM – for youth 12 – 17 years old

Youth under 12 years of age are not eligible to participate
Parental consent is not required for youth age 18 and above

A separate form must be returned for each child not participating.

Our school is conducting the survey on ___October 29, 2019___

Please return this form in person to ___the HS or MS Offices___
Or send it by U.S. Mail to ___310 N. Second Street, Coldwater, Ohio, 45828___
Or email the information below to: _____hemmelgarn.jason@coldwatercavs.org or pohlman.dan@coldwatercavs.org__
Or call ___419-678-4821 or 419-678-3331___
By ___October 22, 2019___

Parents, please do not rely on your student to return this form.

NO, my child may not participate in the OHYES! survey

Student’s Name: ____________________________________________________________
Grade: _________

Print Parent/Guardian Name: ______________________________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature: ________________________________________________
Date: _____/_____/______