



Cannabis legalization information for parents

As of October 17, cannabis will be legal in Canada. We continue to work with school communities to ensure students have the information they need to make healthy choices and stay safe.

Legal age for cannabis

The legal age to use, possess, cultivate or purchase cannabis is **19 years of age**. As an adult, if you have any cannabis or cannabis plants, you are legally responsible for ensuring children who are under 19 do not have access to cannabis or cannabis plants that may be in your possession.

Cannabis legalization and schools

Drug and alcohol education, including cannabis, continues to be part of Yukon's school curriculum. The curriculum has grade-appropriate learning outcomes about the risks of harmful substances to support students in making safe and healthy life choices. We are providing more information to school staff about cannabis legalization and health effects to ensure students are receiving current information.

The use of cannabis continues to be prohibited on school grounds. If a student is found to be using cannabis at school, the school principal will notify the parents and determine the appropriate action, which may include counselling by qualified school staff or outside agencies, and/or disciplinary action.

Some of the health effects of cannabis

The health risks of cannabis use are higher in younger users and when used more often and for longer periods of time.

Cannabis use can be harmful for youth brain development until the age of 25. Its use has been linked to the development of psychosis and schizophrenia, especially when use begins in adolescence and there is a family history of these illnesses.

Cannabis can be addictive. About 1 in 11 people who use cannabis will become addicted. That risk rises to about 1 in 6 for people who started using cannabis as a teen. Visit the Government of Canada's cannabis website at canada.ca/cannabis to learn more about the health effects of cannabis.

Substance use supports

School counselors are available at all of our schools to provide students with guidance and advice around healthy decision making and avoiding risky and unsafe situations. We also work with Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services to offer more in-depth counselling to students.

If you suspect your child is having problems with drugs or alcohol, you can talk with your school about getting help from a school counsellor or contact Mental Wellness and Substance Use Services at 867-456-3838.

Talk with your child

Conversations about cannabis and other substances needs to happen both in school and at home. It is important to speak with your child about cannabis to help them make informed decisions to keep themselves safe and healthy.

- Be open, calm and ask questions. Do not blame, shame or lecture.
- Ask what they have heard about cannabis and other substances.
- Children are experts about their worlds. Listen and learn.
- Tell them you care about them. Speak from your heart.
- Help them make healthy decisions. Focus on your concern for their safety.

Drug Free Kids Canada's Cannabis Talk Kit, available at www.drugfreekidscanada.org, provides facts about cannabis to help you start the conversation with your child.

Find out more

For more information on how we are educating students about the risk of cannabis and other drugs, visit www.education.gov.yk.ca/drug_education.html or speak with your child's teacher. For more information about cannabis legalization in Yukon, visit yukon.ca/cannabis or see the key things Yukoners need to know about cannabis video at youtu.be/N1v2BLibNqc.