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## Consent form

### ISIS – Health and Neighbourhoods

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**Objective of the project:** The aim of the ISIS study is to examine the link between young Montrealers’ health and their neighbourhoods. We also want to understand why tobacco use remains high in low-income groups and what it is, in a neighbourhood, that most influences differences related to tobacco use. You are one of 6,000 Montrealers who have been invited to take part in this University of Montreal study.

**How it works:** If you agree to take part in the ISIS study, we will ask you to fill out a questionnaire on different aspects of your life, such as the neighbourhood in which you live, your cigarette consumption, your social network, your work and your studies. This questionnaire will take about 20 minutes to complete. You can choose to fill out the questionnaire by: 1. completing it online on a password-protected website; 2. filling out a paper version yourself; 3. filling it out over the phone with one of our team members or; 4. doing a face-to-face interview at the time and place of your choice. Once you have submitted your completed questionnaire, we will send you a \$10 gift certificate redeemable at the retailer of your choice: iTunes, Renaud-Bray or Cineplex Odeon. In two years, in order to find out if there have been any changes in your neighbourhood and your health, we will contact you again to ask you to complete a similar questionnaire. Your continued participation is extremely important. For this reason, someone in charge of interviews might contact you at home, by phone or in person as part of this study at a future date.

**Participation:** We obtained your contact information from the Quebec Health Insurance Board (*Régie de l’assurance-maladie du Québec*), with authorization from Quebec’s Commission on Access to Information. Your participation in the ISIS study is entirely voluntary. You can choose to participate or not. If any of the questions make you uncomfortable, or if you feel they might cause you psychological harm, you can also refuse to answer them. If you do not agree to participate, or decide to withdraw from the study at any time, you do not need to give us your reason and there will be no negative consequences. You may withdraw from the study at any time by contacting the study’s coordination team (Michael Cantinotti or Rowena Agouri, at (514) 343-2414 or by email at [info@isis-montreal.ca](mailto:info@isis-montreal.ca)). If you decide to withdraw from the study, all information about you will be destroyed.

**Who can be in this study:** You are eligible to participate in the study if: 1) you are between the age of 18 and 25 at the time you answer the questions; 2) you know either French or English well enough to

answer the questions; and 3) you have lived in your current residence for at least one year or more at the time you answer the questions.

**Confidentiality:** We assure you that all the information you give us will be treated in a strictly confidential manner. The principal investigator and the research coordinators are the only people who will have access to your data. All data will be kept in locked cabinets at the University of Montreal, or in password-protected electronic files, for a maximum of 7 years after the project is completed. The general results of the ISIS study, which will be published in journals and on the website ([www.isis-montreal.ca](http://www.isis-montreal.ca)), and presented at conferences, will make it impossible to identify any of the participants. As part of the monitoring of the research project, your file may be consulted by a person mandated by the Research Ethics Committee of the University of Montreal's Faculty of Medicine or by representatives of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. All of these follow strict policies of confidentiality.

**Benefits and inconveniences:** Your answers to this questionnaire will help us to better understand the link between neighbourhoods and health among young adults. This will help us develop better strategies to improve the health and well-being of Montreal's population. In addition, we will share with you the general results of the study by sending you newsletters over the course of the study. There is no inconvenience to you associated with taking part in the ISIS study, except for the time it takes you to answer the questionnaire.

**Possible suspension from the study:** The principal investigator can decide to suspend anyone's participation in the study if she believes it is in the participant's best interest, if the participant no longer meets the inclusion criteria, or for any other reason the principal investigator deems valid.

**Contact persons:** If you have any questions or concerns about your rights as a participant in this study, feel free to contact the Research Ethics Committee of the University of Montreal's Faculty of Medicine ([cerfm@umontreal.ca](mailto:cerfm@umontreal.ca), (514) 343-6111, ext. 2604). If you have a complaint about this study, you can contact the University of Montreal's ombudsman at (514) 343-2100, or by email at [ombudsman@umontreal.ca](mailto:ombudsman@umontreal.ca). The ombudsman accepts collect calls.

**Consent:** By signing this form, you confirm that you have read and understood its content. You understand that your participation is voluntary and that you are free to withdraw from the study at any time. Finally, you accept being contacted by members of the research team at any time, as needed, either for follow-up or to get your feedback.

We thank you in advance for your collaboration in this important project!

The ISIS team,

*Katherine L. Frohlich*  
Chercheuse principale

*Michael Cantinotti*  
Coordonnateur

*Rowena Agouri*  
Adjointe de coordination

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**Please complete the section below and send the form back to us.  
The duplicate copy is yours to keep.**

- I agree** to participate in the ISIS study
- I do not agree** to participate in the ISIS study

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**Your name (in CAPITAL letters)**

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**Your signature**

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**Date**