

PARENT PERMISSION FOR MINOR TO PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAM EVALUATION

Evaluation of the Potential of uME for Teen Well-being

Your teen was selected as a potential participant in this program evaluation because they are a student between the ages of 13 and 17. Your teen's participation in this evaluation is entirely voluntary. Both you and your teen must review the evaluation details and sign your respective forms before participation can begin.

Why is this evaluation being done?

This evaluation is being done to assess the potential of uME as a tool to support the emotional well-being of teenagers. Our goal is to learn how the AI chatbot works in a real-world setting and whether it might be useful for students like your teen. Please note that this evaluation is solely for internal quality improvement purposes and is not intended to contribute to generalizable research or be published.

What will happen if my teen takes part in this evaluation?

If you agree to allow your teen to participate, they will be asked to:

1. Interact with uME at their own discretion. The AI chatbot is designed as a tool that they can use whenever they feel it might help them manage their thoughts or feelings. There is no mandatory minimum or maximum amount of time they will be asked to use the service.
2. Complete four surveys during the evaluation:
 - (a) Baseline (Week 0)
 - (b) Follow-up 1 (Week 4)
 - (c) Follow-up 2 (Week 8)
 - (d) Endpoint (Week 12)

How will my teen interact with uME?

Your teen will be able to interact with uME through text messaging at +1.310.905.3242. There is no limit to how much they can message, and there are no associated costs. They will gain access to uME after completing their Week 4 follow-up assessment.

How long will my teen be involved in the evaluation?

Participation will last for about 13 weeks. There will be no additional follow-ups after the last survey.

What kind of questions will my teen be asked?

Your teen will complete the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (WEMWBS) during each survey period. Additional non-sensitive information will be collected, including:

- Basic demographic information (age, gender identity, race/ethnicity)
- Usage pattern questions

A copy of the survey can be previewed on <https://umetrics.net/info>. Note that additional questions may be included to assess program compliance and usage patterns.

Are there any potential risks or discomforts that my teen can expect?

There are no anticipated risks or discomforts from participating in this evaluation.

Are there any potential benefits if my teen participates?

Your teen may benefit from using uME, which is designed as a support tool to help improve their well-being. Their input will help us determine the AI chatbot's potential and improve our program. However, please note that this evaluation is not intended to provide direct therapeutic benefits, and your teen will have access to the service regardless of their decision to participate.

Will information about my teen's participation be kept confidential?

Any information obtained in connection with this evaluation that can identify your teen will remain confidential. It will be disclosed only with your permission or as required by law. Confidentiality will be maintained through the following measures:

Survey Data Protection:

- All paper surveys will be immediately scanned and then shredded
- Scanned data will be stored on password-protected, encrypted devices
- Access to survey data is strictly limited to program evaluators only
- Data will be retained for two years following program evaluation completion
- All electronic files will be securely deleted after this period
- Data will only be analyzed and reported in aggregate form

uME Interaction Security:

- Conversations are only stored during active sessions
- No long-term retention of chat data
- Automated safety scanning is in place
- Sensitive personal information is not retained

All data handling complies with relevant data protection regulations (GDPR, HIPAA, and COPPA).

What are my teen's rights in this evaluation?

- Your teen's participation is completely voluntary. They may withdraw at any time without penalty.
- Your teen may choose not to answer any questions they feel uncomfortable with and still continue in the evaluation.
- Your teen's decision to participate (or not) will not affect their access to any services.

Who can answer any questions I might have about this evaluation?

- If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the evaluation, please contact a member of the evaluation team at: umestudy@theumf.org

Before signing this form, please go to <https://umetrics.net> and complete the understanding quiz with your teen. This quiz is designed to ensure you both fully understand what is expected in this evaluation.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN

I understand the procedures described above and have successfully completed the online understanding quiz. My questions have been answered to my satisfaction, and I agree to allow my teen to participate in this evaluation.

Name of Teen

Name of Parent/Guardian

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date