



Safer Social Event Team Information for Event Organizers

The University of Manitoba is committed to a respectful work and learning environment and ensuring our campus community is as safe and inclusive as possible. As part of this commitment, Student Support has created the Safer Social Event Team to support healthier choices and more positive behaviors at student social events involving alcohol and/or large numbers of students.

The Safer Social Event Team (SSET) is a group of UM student peer support educators who are hired and trained in creating safer spaces and in responding appropriately and supportively to situations of concern. Their training is offered through a partnership between the Sexual Violence Resource Centre and the Health and Wellness unit at UM, both of which maintain joint responsibility and oversight for the SSET program.

Beginning in September, 2022 organizers of on-campus events involving alcohol and/or large numbers of students will be required to host SSET members assigned to their event. At these events, SSET members will follow a harm reduction model in which they:

- Support event attendees by promoting responsible substance use, identifying plans for safer transportation, encouraging respectful socializing, and increasing awareness of sexual violence risks and preventive measures
- Monitor event developments to identify and respond to situations of concern directly or through involvement of other event support staff (e.g., Security, St. John's Ambulance Society)
- Provide proactive health education on topics including substance use, mental health, sexual violence, and sexual health
- Provide referrals to related UM and community resources

Arranging for SSET participation is a mandatory condition for approval of indoor or outdoor UM student social events involving alcohol and/or large numbers of students. Other UM events may be eligible for SSET team involvement on a request basis.

To effectively host SSET, organizers are expected to provide a table located in a relatively quiet space at the event, along with four chairs to accommodate SSET members when they are not circulating among the attendees. The SSET members will have SSET branded t-shirts and related identification to enable attendees, event organizers, or other event support staff to readily identify and access them.

There is no cost to event organizers to host the Safer Social Event Team.

For more information, please contact SSET at sveducation@umanitoba.ca or 204-474-6562