

Biospecimen FAQ for Saliva Donation

Why is this study being done?

This second study will collect and store biospecimen samples of saliva (or spit), which have important information about the human body. By looking at these samples, researchers hope to learn more about how diseases such as, cancer, diabetes, and heart disease develop in the body and how they can be prevented and treated.

What will happen if I take part in this research study?

If you decide to participate in this voluntary saliva collection study, we will collect a saliva sample from you and ask you to complete an online survey.

What are the costs of being in this study?

There is no charge for you to participate in this portion of the study.

Will I be compensated for participating in this study?

All participants who complete the education portion of this study will be compensated with \$20 cash. You will not be compensated for the collection (donation of saliva) study.

Will it hurt to donate?

No, saliva donation is quick and easy. All you have to do is spit into a tube.

What happens to my sample after I donate?

Your sample will be collected and labeled with an ID number only. It won't have any of your personal information. It will then be stored safely under lock and key by the research staff until researchers use your sample.

What kind of research will my sample be used for?

Your sample might be used in a number of ways. For example, it might be used to find the cause of a disease or to develop new tests or drugs. It could also be used to find how diseases are passed down in families or why some people are more likely to use tobacco or alcohol. All of the research conducted with your sample can help scientists better understand how genes affect health and illness.

Can I choose the type of research that I want my sample to be used for?

You won't get to choose how your sample is used, similar to how you don't decide who gets your blood when you donate at a blood drive.

What if I donate and then change my mind afterwards?

You can change your mind about your sample being used for research at any time but any research already conducted using your sample will stay with the research team. You can contact the researchers listed on your consent form if you change your mind and your sample will be destroyed.

Will you get in touch with me when you get the results of my sample?

No, and for two reasons: 1) your sample will be one of many samples studied together; they aren't studied individually and 2) biospecimen research takes a long time and requires many samples before results are known. Research findings may not be available for years.

What are the risks and benefits of donating my biospecimen?

We know of no risks in donating a saliva sample. You might feel embarrassed or uncomfortable about providing the saliva sample. Another possible risk is loss of confidentiality. However, we will make every effort to protect your information from being accessed or seen by people outside our research team. We do not expect you to receive any direct benefits from this research. However, you will have the reward of knowing you helped researchers find new ways to prevent and treat diseases and that these findings may improve the health of Pacific Islanders.

Will my information be sold or will anyone make money off of my sample?

No, your information will not be sold to anyone. It will be protected and kept confidential.

