

## Family Economics Study (FES) Saliva Collection: Question & Answer Sheet

**What is my family being asked to do?** Eligible participants in your family are being asked to provide a saliva sample by spitting into a small container. We ask them to collect the saliva using a kit we mail them and to return the container along with their signed and dated consent form.

**How long will this take?** It will take about three (3) minutes for a person to complete this task. We provide a set of clear printed instructions to help with each saliva kit.

**What is the purpose of the saliva collection?** By adding genetic information to the FES, researchers will be able to answer new questions about how social and genetic environments influence people's outcomes over their lives, and how characteristics are passed on to new generations of the family.

**Who was selected to participate?** To allow researchers to study genetic influence across generations, some FES family members who are part of multi-generational families were selected to provide saliva samples in this wave. We hope to include more study family members in future waves of the FES.

**Will my family be paid for participating?** Each participant will receive \$20 in appreciation for returning their sample with their signed and dated consent.

**What are the benefits to participating?** There are no direct benefits to you from participating in this study, however the saliva that is provided will help researchers learn more about factors that affect health and development. Others may benefit from the knowledge gained from this study.

**Does my family have to participate?** Participation is voluntary. Your family does not have to participate and can stop at any time. If you decide not to participate, there are no penalties and you will not lose any benefits to which you would otherwise be entitled.

**Are there any risks?** There are no known risks associated with saliva collection, however there are several perceived risks to providing genomic data related to confidentiality. Because everyone's DNA is unique, it is possible that in the future someone could find out who you are just from your DNA sequence.

**Are there any special protections of confidentiality?** Your confidentiality is of the highest concern to us. In addition to everything we will do to protect your confidentiality, this study holds a Certificate of Confidentiality from the National Institutes of Health that provides additional protection of your identity.

**What if I change my mind?** Each participant may submit a written request to the study director to have your saliva sample withdrawn from the study at any time. You will be notified when the sample has been removed and destroyed.

**Does the signed consent form need to be folded to get it into the document pocket of the return pouch?** We recommend you fold the consent form twice to get it into the pouch pocket.

**Will my mail carrier pick up the return mailer? If it doesn't fit in my mailbox what should I do?** Your mail carrier will pick up the prepaid return mailer from your mailbox for no cost. If it does not fit in your mailbox you can drop off the mailer at any US post office or collection box.

**Who can answer questions about this study?** If you would like more information, please call our toll-free number: 1-866-796-5166 or visit the FES respondent website at <https://fes.isr.umich.edu/SalCol.aspx>.