



Your Privacy is Very Important to Us

The purpose of the GuLF STUDY is to learn more about any potential health effects of the recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. This study will include both people who were involved in oil spill clean-up and others who did not do clean-up work. Findings from the study will identify health needs of people involved in oil spills and may change public health responses to similar disasters in the future.

Participation is voluntary. There will be no penalty for not taking part. If you agree to participate, we will call you and ask you questions about oil spill clean-up activities you may have done, your usual work, and your health. The telephone interview will take about 30 to 60 minutes depending on your experiences. You do not have to answer every question. If there is a question you do not want to answer, or if you have any questions of your own, just let the interviewer know.

We will also ask you to provide contact information and other information such as your birth date and Social Security Number that we can use to follow your health through available public health records. If you agree to be in this study, we will follow your health for at least 10 years. If you agree to answer the questions, you are giving consent to be part of the GuLF STUDY.

We will make every effort to protect your privacy and keep your data confidential. People in NIH studies are not named in reports or presentations. Furthermore, a law called The Federal Privacy Act protects your information. We will label the information from this interview with a special code number instead of your name so you will not be identified. Only authorized staff will see your private information.

For added protection, the study has a Certificate of Confidentiality which helps us protect the privacy and confidentiality of people in the study. The Certificate helps to prevent us from being forced to give out information that could identify you in a court of law. A Certificate of Confidentiality does not prevent you from giving out information about your own involvement in this study. If you want us to send information about you to a doctor, insurer, or employer, you must request this from us in writing. Data we collect may be shared with other qualified researchers, but we will do everything we can to protect your privacy.