



FAQs PFAS Health Study webpage

What is an epidemiological study?

Epidemiology is the study of the patterns and causes of disease. This epidemiological study, known as the PFAS Health Study, will investigate whether disease rates are higher in three communities exposed to PFAS through environmental contamination compared with communities with background exposure to PFAS.

How can I participate?

The easiest way to be part of the study is to participate in the Australian Government Department of Health's Voluntary Blood Testing Program. When you have your blood collected there is a section on the pathology form where you can give consent to participate in the study. If you give consent to participate your blood test results, contact details and a sample of your blood serum will be sent to the ANU. A survey will be released in mid-2019, if you consented to participate in the epidemiological study, you will be sent a copy of the questionnaire to complete.

If you don't want to have your blood tested, but would like to complete a questionnaire please get in touch with the study team at pfas.health.study@anu.edu.au or call 02 6125 6079 to register your details.

Do I have to participate?

Participation in the Focus Groups Study, the Cross-sectional Survey and the Blood Serum Study is voluntary, you do not have to participate in any of these studies.

I already had my PFAS serum level tested, do I need to have another test?

If you participated in the Voluntary Blood Testing Program and you consented to participate in the study you do not need to have another test. The study team have been collecting information from the start of the Voluntary Blood Testing Program, and will be in touch with you in mid-2019.

If you had your PFAS blood levels tested privately the study team will not have your results and will not know how to contact you. You are still eligible to participate in the study, contact the study team at pfas.health.study@anu.edu.au or call 02 6125 6079 to register your interest.

How will you protect my information?

The ANU store all information about participants in locked offices and on password protected computers and networks. Only staff on the PFAS Study Team have access to these files. In addition, the study team will not publish details about participants that would allow them to be identified.

What will you do with my information?

We will be using the results from the PFAS serum testing to determine average and mean PFAS levels in each of the three communities. We will also combine the results of the PFAS serum testing with answers from the survey to determine if higher than background levels of PFAS in blood serum are linked to specific exposure pathways or specific health outcomes.

We will use your contact details to send you updates about the study, and to invite you to participate in upcoming studies. Participation is voluntary, and you can withdraw your consent at any time by contacting the study team at pfas.health.study@anu.edu.au or call 02 6125 6079.

When will the results from the study be ready?

The Systematic Literature Review and the Focus Groups Study report are already available to download on the study webpage. The results from the survey and blood serum study will be available in mid-2020, and the results from the data linkage study will be available at the end of 2020.

The study team will hold community consultations in each of the communities after results are released for each component.

Who is paying for this study?

The Australian Government Department of Health has commissioned the Australia National University to conduct this research. The research team work independently from the government.