

Appendix P: Report to Participant – Normal Values (Mailed Follow-up)

SAMPLE LETTER – NORMAL RESULTS

(Version 0.5)



A health study for oil spill clean-up workers and volunteers

«TITLE» «PARTICIPANT FIRST» «PARTICIPANT LAST»

«STREET ADDRESS 1»

«STREET ADDRESS 2»

«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP CODE»

«DATE»

Dear «TITLE» «PARTICIPANT LAST»:

On behalf of the entire GuLF Study team, I want to thank you for your dedication in completing your telephone interview and home visit. We know that it took a considerable amount of your time to do all of this and it is greatly appreciated.

As part of your participation in the GuLF Study, you met with «HVA name» on «date» and completed a questionnaire and a number of clinical evaluations. Our records indicate that all of your evaluation findings were normal. The enclosed report summarizes your evaluation results and includes the results of your lung function test «[IF IN BIOMEDICAL SUBCOHORT] and complete blood count», which were not provided to you during your visit. These results were also normal.

If you have any questions about your results or need assistance with a referral for health care, please call the study center toll-free at 1-855-NIH-GULF (1-855-644-4853).

As you know, the GuLF Study is a long-term study and we plan to keep in touch with you for at least the next ten years.

- We will send you newsletters each year with the latest updates on the study. Keeping you posted on GuLF Study events and findings is important to us.
- Every two years, we will ask you to complete a short telephone interview and answer questions about your health and environment.
- In the years between calls, we will contact you by mail to request updated contact information.
- ADDITIONAL TEXT FOR BIOMEDICAL SUB-COHORT: << You may also be invited to participate in additional studies with our research partners. >>

Please keep in touch and visit our website at www.nihgulfstudy.org for news about the GuLF Study. If you have any questions, please call us toll-free at 1-855-NIH-GULF (1-855-644-4853).

Our hours are Monday through Saturday (9am – 9pm) and Sunday (12pm – 6pm) Eastern Time
[TIME ADJUSTED TO LOCAL TIME ZONE].

Sincerely,

Dale Sander
Principal Investigator, GuLF Study
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
National Institutes of Health

SAMPLE REPORT OF FINDINGS

Date of Study Visit: «Date»
Name: «Participant Name»
Age: «Age»
Gender: «Gender»

Body Measurements

Height: «feet, inches»

Weight: «pounds»

Body Mass Index: «BMI»

Advice: Your BMI indicates that your weight is in the **normal** range for adults of your height. Maintaining a healthy weight may reduce the risk of chronic diseases associated with overweight and obesity.

If height and/or weight were not measured, omit the standard text and the results table. Display the following message:

Your BMI could not be calculated because we did not have complete height and weight measurements from your home visit.

Blood Pressure

	Measurement 1	Measurement 2	Measurement 3	Average
Systolic BP	«SBP»	«SBP»	«SBP»	«SBP»
Diastolic BP	«DBP»	«DBP»	«DBP»	«DBP»

Advice:

Your blood pressure readings are (mm Hg)	This is considered	You are advised to
Systolic BP <120 AND Diastolic BP <80	Normal	Your Blood Pressure is within normal limits. Talk to a health care provider about healthy lifestyle choices that you can take to prevent high blood pressure.

If blood pressure was not measured, omit the standard text and the results table. Display the following message:

Blood pressure measurements were not taken during your visit. Therefore, we cannot provide you with meaningful results.

Urine glucose (sugar)

Results:

Recent symptoms of diabetes:	«No»
Previously diagnosed with diabetes:	«Yes/No»
Urine Glucose Result:	«Negative»

Advice: Your results are negative. No follow-up action is required.

Lung Function Test

	Your Best Values	Predicted Values	% of Predicted
FVC (L)	«value»	«value»	«value»
FEV ₁ (L)	«value»	«value»	«value»
FEV ₁ / FVC (%)	«value»	«value»	«value»

The purpose of the pulmonary function test, also known as spirometry or lung function test, is to determine how your lung function compares to normal lung function for someone of your age, gender, race, and height. The table above provides your results for three measurements.

- The forced vital capacity (FVC) is the maximal or total amount of air you can forcefully breathe out after taking a deep breath.
- The 1-second forced expiratory volume (FEV₁) is the amount of air that you can breathe out in the first second of exhaling.
- The FEV₁ / FVC (%) is the calculation of the ratio of FEV₁ to FVC.

The table also compares your results to predicted values for a healthy, non-smoking person of the same age, height, sex, and race.

Your results have been reviewed by an expert in lung function testing. Please note that any abnormal test result is not a diagnosis of disease; that determination can only be made a health care provider following a complete medical examination.

Interpretation: Your lung function test results were within normal limits.

If results could not be interpreted due to low quality:

Interpretation: Your lung function test results were not interpretable.

If lung function testing was expected, but not done, was expected, but not done, omit the standard text and the results table. Display the following message:

A lung function test was not completed during your home visit.

If the test was not performed by the participant, omit the entire section.

Complete Blood Count

	Result	Units	Flag	Normal Range		
Total White Blood Cell Count	«value»	($\times 10^3/\mu\text{L}$)	«value»	«value»	-	«value»
Hemoglobin	«value»	(g/dl)	«value»	«value»	-	«value»
Hematocrit	«value»	(%)	«value»	«value»	-	«value»
Platelet Count	«value»	($\times 10^3/\mu\text{L}$)	«value»	«value»	-	«value»

Advice: Your results are normal. You are encouraged to share your results with your health care provider at your next appointment.

If blood collection was expected, but not done, omit the standard text and the results table. Display the following message:

A blood sample for the complete blood count was not collected during your visit.

If the participant is not in the biomedical sub-cohort, omit entire section.