



## Appendix G1 – Recruitment Communications Materials


### Recruitment Postcard

#### PFAS and Viral Infections Study



**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT AGAIN**

 Your participation is important.




- CDC/ATSDR is trying to understand how exposure to per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) affect people's likelihood of catching a virus.
- You are qualified to participate because you participated in a previous ATSDR-funded investigation that measured PFAS in your blood.
- This study will simply ask you to complete a series of surveys tracking any symptoms or diagnoses of viral infection over the study period (Fall 2021 to Fall 2022).
- The surveys can be completed from the comfort of your home (no in-person visits) and you can earn up to \$75 in gift cards for participating.

You should receive a letter of invitation in the Fall of 2021. Call or email if you have any questions about how to participate.

**1-833-858-4860**

To see what CDC/ATSDR is doing to address PFAS exposure, visit <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/>.  
For other PFAS-related questions, please email [pfas@cdc.gov](mailto:pfas@cdc.gov).



**National Center for Environmental Health Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry**

 We Need Your Support Again...

# PFAS & Viral Infections



### Overview

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) are studying how elevated levels of exposure to PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) might affect an individual's likelihood of catching a viral infection (i.e., COVID-19, the flu, common cold, stomach flu, etc.).

- This study builds on previous ATSDR-led PFAS investigations conducted in communities where PFAS exposure has occurred.
- Participants from previous PFAS investigations are already qualified to participate and will not have to provide any biological samples. Instead participants will answer a few short surveys and can earn up to \$75 in gift cards for participating.

### What does the study entail?

Participants will complete **five health surveys** and **keep a health diary** over the one-year study period. Participants will **NOT** need to provide any biological (e.g. blood, urine) samples.

The information from the surveys will help CDC and ATSDR examine the relationship between PFAS exposure and susceptibility to viral infections, specifically acute respiratory and gastrointestinal illness including influenza and COVID-19.

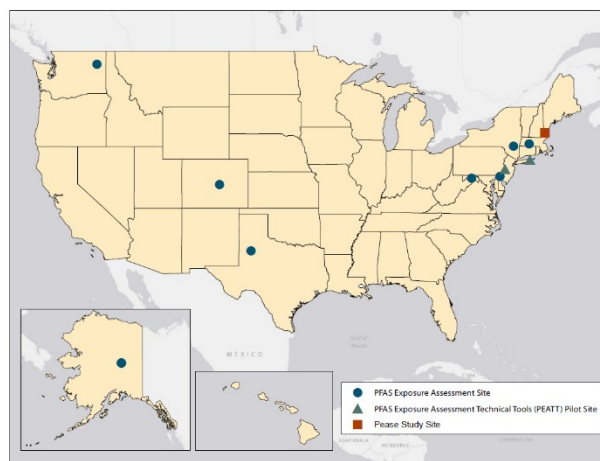
### What will this study do and NOT do?

By participating in this study, participants will help CDC and ATSDR better understand whether communities with higher than average PFAS exposures are more likely to contract illnesses associated with a number of viruses, such as COVID-19, the flu, and others. The study may show whether there is an association between PFAS exposure and viral infection, but it cannot definitively show if PFAS will cause people to get sick, now or in the future. Ultimately, the study will help PFAS-affected communities better understand how viruses that cause COVID-19, the flu, or other viral illnesses might impact them differently than the general population.

### When is this study taking place?

CDC/ATSDR will begin recruiting participants in the Fall of 2021, at which time participants will complete their initial survey. The remaining surveys will be sent to participants every three months, with the last survey being completed in Fall 2022. The study team anticipates having final results of the study by Spring 2023.

**START:** Fall 2021  
**FINISH:** Fall 2022  
**RESULTS:** Spring 2023



## PFAS and Viral Infections Study

### How can people participate?

In Fall 2021, CDC/ATSDR will mail recruitment packets to all eligible individuals. Those individuals who choose to participate can start immediately by signing the consent form, completing the first survey, and returning their completed forms to ATSDR via mail. Participants can choose whether to complete the remaining four surveys on paper or online. If they choose paper, follow-up packets will be mailed to their home. If they choose online, they will receive a link to a web-based survey by email.

### Who can participate?

This study builds off previous ATSDR activities in communities known to have had PFAS in their drinking water. Any previous participants from those communities (see below) who agreed to be contacted for future studies are eligible to participate and all those who participate can receive up to \$75 in gift cards for taking part in the study.

Participants from the below sites are eligible to participate in this study:

- **Berkeley County, WV**  
Near Shepherd Field Air National Guard Base
- **Bucks and Montgomery Counties, PA**  
Near Horsham Air Guard Station, former Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove and Naval Air Warfare Center Warminster
- **El Paso County, CO**  
Near Peterson Air Force Base
- **Hampden County, MA**  
Near the Barnes Air National Guard Base
- **Fairbank North Star Borough, AK**  
Near Eielson Air Force Base
- **Lubbock County, TX**  
Near Reese Technology Center
- **New Castle County, DE**  
Near New Castle Air National Guard Base
- **Orange County, NY**  
Near Stewart Air National Guard Base
- **Portsmouth, NH**  
Near Pease International Tradeport
- **Spokane County, WA**  
Near Fairchild Air Force Base
- **Westhampton, NY**  
Near Gabreski Air National Guard Base



### What kind of questions are in the surveys?

The survey contains several sections:

- Basic demographic and health information
- Potential exposures to people with COVID-19 or other viral illnesses
- Diagnoses and/or symptoms of COVID-19 or other viral infections

### How to find more information

For more information on the work CDC/ATSDR is doing to address PFAS exposure, please visit ATSDR's PFAS website: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/>.

For other PFAS-related questions, please email [pfas@cdc.gov](mailto:pfas@cdc.gov).



National Center  
for Environmental Health  
Agency for Toxic Substances  
and Disease Registry