

Australian Child Health and Air Pollution Study

DIARY STUDY

Information Statement for Participants (2)

Your child is invited to participate in the second phase of the Australian Child Health and Air Pollution Study, which is being conducted in schoolchildren aged 7-12 years. This study has the approval of the Department of Education, the Department of the Environment and your child's school principal. A total of 330 children from 60 schools from across Australia are being invited to participate.

What is the study about?

The aim of this study is to give us a better understanding of the effect of air pollution on breathing problems, asthma and allergies in children. By taking part you and your child will be helping us to address an important public health issue. The results of the tests provide information but may not have immediate benefit for you or your child. The success of the study depends on the participation of as many children as possible. Information is also available at <http://www.woolcock.org.au/achaps/diary.htm>

Who is carrying out the study?

The study is being conducted by Professor Gail Williams (University of Queensland), Professor Rod Simpson (University of the Sunshine Coast), Associate Professor Guy Marks, (Woolcock Institute of Medical Research, Sydney), and Associate Professor Bin Jalaludin (University of New South Wales). The study has been funded by the Australian Research Council and the Environment Protection and Heritage Council.

What is involved?

If you allow your child to participate, he/she will be part of a group of children who will be keeping a daily record of their symptoms, peak flow measurements and outdoor activities twice a day for one month. We will give your child a special diary to record this information and an electronic diary device for measuring breathing capacity. We will provide instructions and a demonstration of the use of this home monitoring device. Examples of how to perform the test and complete the diary are also available on our website (<http://www.woolcock.org.au/achaps/diary.htm>). "Peak flow" is a breathing test which measures how open your airways are. It is typically used by patients with asthma to monitor their condition. It is measured using a simple handheld device. Your child will be asked to take a deep breath in and then blow air out forcefully through the device. This should be done before taking any inhalers (if he/she takes any). We will ask your child to make three peak flow measurements in the morning soon after waking and again before bedtime and then write down the three readings in the diary. On each of these two occasions, we would like you and your child to complete a symptom diary noting whether your child has had any breathing problems or used any reliever inhalers (eg Ventolin or Bricanyl) during the day and night. Additionally, at night time we would like you to complete a simple time activity diary to record outdoor activities during the day. The completion of the diaries should take no longer than 4 minutes each time.

Participation and confidentiality

For the study results to be accurate and representative of the wider population, the study relies on as many people participating as possible. However, your child's participation in this study is entirely voluntary and even if you or your child does agree, you can change your mind at any time.

All information will be kept private. It will be stored in a secure locked room at the University of Queensland and on password protected computer files. A report of the survey may be published in medical journals, but individuals will not be identified in any report.

For further information

If you have any questions feel free to contact Adriana Cortés on 1300 88 96 18. This copy of the information statement and the coloured copy of the consent form is for you to keep.

This study has been approved by the medical research ethics committee of the University of Queensland in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council's guidelines. You are of course, free to discuss your participation in this study with project staff (contactable on 1300 889 618). If you would like to speak to an officer of the University not involved in the study, you may contact the Ethics Officer on 07 3365 3924.