STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

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Jeffrey A. Meyers
Commissioner

Lisa M. Morris
Director

October 11, 2019

Re: Opportunity to Participate in Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Health Studies

Dear NH DHHS PFAS Blood Testing Participant,

From April 2015 through June 2018, the New Hampshire (NH) Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) performed PFAS blood testing on more than 1,800 individuals who reported PFAS exposure from contaminated drinking water while living, working, or attending childcare on the Pease Tradeport in NH. The blood samples collected as part of the NH DHHS PFAS blood testing program continue to be safely stored at the NH Public Health Laboratories in Concord, NH pending destruction since the conclusion of our blood testing program. NH DHHS has been contacted by two research studies requesting permission to obtain the blood samples and PFAS blood test results collected in the NH DHHS PFAS blood testing program. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) is continuing research into PFAS exposure by conducting a multi-site national health study of children and adults to help provide more information about potential health risks connected with PFAS chemical exposure.[1] A separate children's health study ("PFAS-REACH") is being conducted by Silent Spring Institute, Northeastern University, and Michigan State University to study preschool age children to better understand potential effects of PFAS exposures on children's immune systems.[2]

Because you participated in the NH DHHS PFAS blood testing program, you are invited by CDC/ATSDR and the "PFAS-REACH" study investigators to participate in these health studies. NH DHHS has offered to assist these two health studies by contacting individuals who participated in our NH DHHS PFAS blood testing program prior to destruction of the blood samples.

In order for NH DHHS to share your contact information with either of the studies' investigators, NH DHHS will need your permission. If NH DHHS does not receive a response from you, then your blood sample will be destroyed as described in the consent form you signed when you agreed to participate in the NH DHHS PFAS blood testing program. Please review the options below, check all that apply, and return your signed response to NH DHHS.

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[1] There is an informational meeting about participating in the CDC/ATSDR study scheduled for the evening of Thursday, October 24th in Portsmouth, NH as described in the included flyer.

[2] Please see the included informational flyer for more information about the children's health study.

☐ I give NH DHHS permission to provide my name and contact information to CDC/ATSDR study investigators (Abt Associates) so that I may be contacted about participating in their PFAS health study.

☐ I give NH DHHS permission to provide my name and contact information to PFAS-REACH study investigators so that I may be contacted about participating in their children's PFAS health study.

☐ I give NH DHHS permission to preserve my blood sample for use in one of these PFAS studies for which I will provide explicit consent after I enroll in the study.

☐ I do NOT give NH DHHS permission to preserve my blood sample, and request that NH DHHS destroy it upon receipt of this letter.

Participant Name: _____

Participant Date of Birth: _____

Participant ID Number (e.g. PT-00001), if known: _____

Signature of Participant: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian (if Participant is a Minor): _____

Please consider allowing NH DHHS to share your contact information with these two important public health studies to better understand the health risks associated with PFAS chemical exposure. Please return this letter with your preferences indicated above within one week from receipt of this letter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lisa Morris
Director

Benjamin Chan, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist