

## **Frequently Asked Questions for Measuring Arsenic Project**

### **Why is this study being done?**

This study will attempt to find out if there is a relationship between relatively small amounts of arsenic in drinking water and urine arsenic levels of people drinking that water. A urine test can only measure short-term (acute) exposure to arsenic, and is not designed to gauge your long-term risk of health problems from drinking water contaminated with arsenic. This study is not intended to determine if the arsenic in your drinking water could make you sick. Rather, this study is being conducted to estimate the amount of arsenic people are consuming through drinking water, as measured in urine arsenic levels.

The results may be used to obtain funding to encourage people (through outreach campaigns) to have their drinking water wells tested for arsenic. The Florida Department of Health will also work with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to ensure that people have access to safe drinking water (whenever contamination is found). There are already programs in place to provide filters for contaminated wells.

### **What will you ask me to do if I take part in this study?**

First, we ask that you please return the form included in this packet using the stamped, addressed envelope provided (if you would like to participate in this study). Staff from the Hernando County Health Department will call you to set up a time to visit your home.

If you agree to participate, a Hernando County Health Department professional will visit your home to collect water and urine samples, and they will complete a short questionnaire with you.

### **When will I receive the results of my urine/water tests?**

We will send the urine and water samples to a State of Florida lab and test them for arsenic. You will receive the results from your water and urine testing within four weeks.

### **Will I receive compensation for my time if I take part in this study?/Will the study cost me anything?**

There is no monetary or other incentive for this study, but it won't cost you anything to receive your water and urine arsenic level results.

### **Are there any risks if I take part?**

There should be very minimal or no risks to submitting water or urine samples.

### **What benefits will I get if I take part in this study?**

We will give you a written report of your urine arsenic level within a few weeks. Along with your water testing results, the urine testing may show that a different drinking water source is recommended. There are no other benefits for participating in this study.

### **Do I have to take part in this study?**

No - this study is voluntary. If you do decide to take part, you can stop for any reason. You won't lose any services or benefits if you decide not to take part or don't do all parts of the study.

### **Who will see my information?**

We will protect your privacy and keep your information confidential. We will use a study number instead of your name on our forms.

We will not use your name or any other information that can identify you in any reports. Study staff will not identify you if they report results of this study at any professional meetings or in published articles. They will keep your information confidential.

All paper study records are kept locked in secure files. We store electronic information in password protected files on secure servers that only project staff can access.

**What else do I need to know?**

The Hernando County Health Department data collector will present their ID when they arrive at your home.

You may be called by Florida Department of Health supervisory staff, to verify the quality control of the procedures they conducted for this study.

We will send your water and urine samples to a State of Florida Public Health Laboratory. The lab will test these samples for arsenic. After finishing the tests, the lab will destroy any leftover urine. Samples sent to the lab will not include your name or other identifying information, and will not be tested for other substances.