

# Voluntary Blood Sampling Program

Program Element	Comment/Description
<b>Eligibility</b>	<p>The program is voluntary and open to all residents living in the area from the Garfield Avenue Site west to Ocean Avenue; south to Bayview Avenue and north to Bramhall Avenue</p> <p>To participate, you <u>must</u> complete and submit a sign-up form by Friday, June 11. Turn it in tonight, drop it off at 334 Martin Luther King Drive or mail it to PO Box 15981, Jersey City, NJ 07305.</p>
<b>Health Questionnaire</b>	<p>Participants will complete a confidential health questionnaire, which will help program personnel understand factors that might influence the concentration of chromium in their blood.</p>
<b>Baseline Testing</b>	<p>Everyone has some chromium in their blood. The initial sampling is designed to establish baseline chromium concentrations before excavation starts.</p> <p>The initial blood sampling will take place prior to the start of major excavation activities on the Garfield Avenue site.</p> <p>Baseline testing will take place in early-to-mid June (dates to be determined).</p> <p>Program personnel will try to schedule daytime and evening testing times.</p>
<b>Testing Location</b>	<p>Program participants will be contacted directly to schedule a testing time at a convenient location.</p>
<b>Sample Collection</b>	<p>Two tubes of blood will be drawn (this requires only one needle “stick”).</p>

	<p>One tube will be analyzed for chromium in the red blood cells; the other for complete blood count (see below)</p>
<b>Sample Protection</b>	<p>Testing will follow strict chain-of-custody procedures to ensure samples are not contaminated or tampered with during handling.</p> <p>An independent physician will oversee blood collection, processing and handling.</p>
<b>Laboratory Analysis</b>	<p>One sample tube will be analyzed for the amount of chromium in red blood cells.</p> <p>One sample tube will be analyzed for a complete blood count (CBC); this test looks at the number and type of blood cells (white cells, red cells, platelets), as well as the level of hemoglobin (which carries oxygen in the blood); these values may influence the chromium concentration in a person's blood.</p> <p>Samples will NOT be analyzed for any other constituents.</p>
<b>Program Oversight</b>	<p>Scientists at the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute (EOHSI) and third-party, independent consulting physicians will oversee blood sample collection, perform laboratory QA/QC and run data management.</p>
<b>Sample Follow-Up</b>	<p>Results will be communicated to each participant by EOHSI personnel and via letter.</p> <p>EOHSI will make available a health professional with experience in environmental and occupational medicine to answer any questions each participant might have regarding the results.</p>

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**Physical Examination**

If EOHSI or third-party, independent consulting physicians determine that changes in a participant's blood sampling results warrant it, he/she will be offered a physical examination for evidence of medical conditions that indicate recent exposure to chromium.

The physical exam will be performed by a physician experienced in occupational and environmental medicine.

The participant may be asked to share medical records with the examining physician.

The participating resident will be contacted by the examining physician to discuss the results of the examination. Written results will also be provided.

If any medical conditions potentially related to chromium exposure are identified, the participating resident will be referred to a qualified physician for further evaluation.

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**Privacy protection**

Individual participant privacy will be protected. Identities will not be revealed.

No identifying data (i.e., names, addresses) will be shared.

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**For more information**

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