

Hi [name of subject],

Thank you for your interest in participating. All samples will be de-identified to protect your privacy. To proceed, you must meet certain eligibility criteria at the time of participation.

1. Are you between the ages of 18 and 45 years old and in good health?
2. Did your last menstrual period end three or more days ago?
3. Can you confirm that you are not pregnant?
4. Have you had vaginal intercourse, protected or unprotected, within the past three days?
5. Have you used antibiotics, birth control pills, or other vaginal products (vaginal inserts, creams etc.) within the past three weeks?
6. Do you have any vaginal symptoms (unusual discharge, itching, burning, or odor)?

If your answers to questions 1-3 are “Yes” and your answers to questions 4-6 are “No”, you are eligible to participate in the study. **Note that we sometimes make exceptions for questions 5 and 6, but please let us know since it may affect our experiments.**

If you are eligible, we'll be happy to arrange a time to meet. Our lab is located at 5151 McCrimmon Parkway, Suite 220, Morrisville, NC 27560. The whole process should take no more than 10-15 minutes the first time you visit (largely to go through informed consent), and only a few minutes for subsequent visits (entirely voluntary).

The procedure is self-administered in a private room, and involves insertion of a commercial menstrual device (a plastic ring similar in principle to the Nuva Ring) to collect vaginal mucus. The first and any subsequent times we meet, we will give you a consent form that explains the study purpose, procedures, etc., and which will require your signature. Each time you come in for a donation, you will be given a questionnaire involving the above questions that you will fill out. If you would like additional privacy for filling out the questionnaire, please let us know. While you fill out the paperwork, we will go to centrifuge the sample (30 s cycle) for visual inspection. If the sample appears visually unusable (see definition of unusable** below, as well as less than 100 microliters in volume; note we typically can collect 200-500 microliters of mucus per sample), then you will not receive compensation. If the sample does appear visually usable, you will receive compensation (\$40 on your first visit and \$30 on any subsequent visits). However, if we find the presence of semen or other vaginal products through routine testing, we will require that you provide another usable sample prior to being able to be compensated for donations again.

Please let me know your availability (give several times if possible) and if you have any questions. We will generally contact you at least a day in advance of having you come in to provide a sample.

** “unusable” and “usable” are both defined based on our stated requirements for donation: it must have been at least 3 days since your last period (such that there are no traces of menstrual fluid); and the stated requirements for vaginal products, sexual activity, and vaginal symptoms must be met (such that there are no traces of vaginal products or seminal fluid or unusual discharge).

Thanks,

[study coordinator]