



## *The Department of Health needs your help with an important survey*

### **What is the survey about?**

- This survey is about exposures to arsenic and metals.
- We want to find out if people in your area are exposed to arsenic and metals from drinking water.
- We want to know how exposures to arsenic and metals in your area compare to Washington State and the rest of the country.

### **What will I be asked to do?**

1. Tell us if you use a private well or small community water system for drinking water.
2. If you do, give us a sample of your drinking water to test for arsenic.
3. If your drinking water contains arsenic above 10 ug/L (the drinking water standard for large water systems), we'll revisit your home within the next week and:
  - Ask you to give us a sample of your urine to test for arsenic and metals.
  - Ask you some questions about you and your home.
  - Ask to re-test your water for arsenic and other metals.
4. Most people in your home will be asked to take part.
5. The whole survey will take about 15-20 minutes.

### **How was I selected?**

Your home was selected because arsenic occurs naturally in ground water in your area.

### **What will happen next?**

In the next few days, interviewers who work for the Washington State Department of Health will knock on your door. They will have photo ID cards and will be wearing a vest that says the Washington State Department of Health.

### **Why does the Department of Health want to know about arsenic and metals?**

People can be exposed to arsenic and metals from their drinking water. At high levels, these exposures can make people sick. There are ways to reduce arsenic in your drinking water.

### **Who will know my test results?**

By law, the information you provide us must be kept private. Only the study team and parents or legal guardians of children will be given the results. Names will not appear on any of the information we collect.

### **Why should I help?**

You can help us find out how much people are being exposed to arsenic and metals in your area and if exposures are higher in your area than the rest of Washington State and the country.

*Our toll-free number is 1-877-494-3137*

### **How do I take part?**



Our interviewers will come to your home or you can call the WEBS Program at Washington State Department of Health toll-free at 1-877-494-3137 to schedule an appointment.

### **What do I get if I take part?**

- Adults get a \$15 Visa debit card.
- Children ages 12-17 get a \$10 Visa debit card.
- Children ages 6-11 get art supplies
- Everyone can get information about the levels of arsenic and metals in their drinking water and urine.

### **What if I don't want to take part?**

#### **Taking part is your choice**

If you want to take part, you do not have to answer questions you do not want to answer, and you can drop out at any time.

### **Where can I get more information?**

Call toll-free 1-877-494-3137

Or visit our website at:  
[www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/Biomonitoring.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/Biomonitoring.htm)

