



CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

The Surfer Health Study

Online Consent Form

Introduction

My name is Professor Jack Colford. I am a faculty member at the University of California, Berkeley, in the School of Public Health. Together with my colleague Dr. Steve Weisberg, who directs the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (www.sccwrp.org), and our partners at the Surfrider Foundation (www.surfrider.org), we are conducting a research study with surfers in San Diego County.

We are inviting you to participate in this study because we are enrolling hundreds of surfers in San Diego to provide information about their surf activity and illness over the next three months through a simple and convenient web survey or smartphone app.

Purpose

The purpose of this research project is to determine whether surfers in San Diego County are at risk of illness from ocean exposure. This is important, because while we have conducted multiple research projects with swimmers in California during the summer, we know very little about the health risks of ocean exposure during the winter and among surfers who are frequently exposed.

Procedures

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to do the following:

Today, you will be asked to complete an online 10-15-minute survey about your surf history, recent ocean exposure, recent illness, and some of your demographic information. Then, through the Spring of 2015 you will be asked to complete a 10-minute survey each week through a secure website or smartphone app that reports your recent surf activity and any illness that you have experienced.

Study time

Participation in this study will involve approximately 15 minutes of your time today, and at most 10 minutes per week through the Spring of 2015. You can stop at any time during the study.

Study location

You will be able to complete the weekly follow-up surveys using your smartphone or computer -- any device you have with an internet connection.

Benefits

- There is no direct benefit to you for participating in this study.
- This will be the first study to measure the health risks (if any) associated with surfing on the California coast. We hope that the information gained from the study will help inform watershed managers throughout San Diego and the rest of California to help guide investments in the management of storm water runoff.

Risks/Discomforts

- You are free to decline to answer any questions you don't wish to, or to stop the interview or survey at any time.
- Breach of confidentiality: As with all research, there is a chance that confidentiality could be compromised; however, we are taking precautions to minimize this risk.
- Your confidentiality will be kept to the degree permitted by the technology being used (128 bit encryption, and transmitted through a Secure Sockets Layer [SSL]), which is consistent with secure website standards typically used in online banking. No guarantees can be made regarding the interception of data sent via the Internet by any third parties, but it will be encrypted.

Confidentiality

All information collected from participants will be kept confidential. Information will be identified by ID number only. All names will be deleted from our files when the study is complete. If results of this study are published or presented at scientific meetings, no names or other personally identifiable information will be used.

To minimize the risks to confidentiality, we will do the following:

- The only personally identifiable information that we will collect in this study will be your name, birth date, phone number, email address, and zip code. Personal identifiers will be removed immediately after data collection and will only be used to contact you during the study follow-up period to send a reminder to complete the weekly survey. Your information will never be shared with anyone.

- Your research records, including computer-based data, will be stored in an encrypted format on a password-protected server.
- Only the researchers at UC Berkeley and the Southern California Coastal Research Project will have access to your study records and they will never be shared with anyone.

Future use of study data:

Data will be maintained for possible use in future research by investigators involved in this study. We will retain this data for up to 3 years after the study is over. The same measures described above will be taken to protect confidentiality of this study data.

Compensation/Payment

For every 4 weekly surveys that you complete, you will receive a \$20 gift card redeemable at Swell.com. Each time you complete a block of 4 weekly surveys, you will receive a gift card (after 4, 8, 12, 16,... surveys) until the study ends data collection in the Spring of 2015. In each survey, you will be able to see your progress toward the completion of a block of 4 surveys. You will not receive a gift card if you withdraw from the study before completing a block of 4 surveys. We will send redemption codes to either your phone or email address that you can redeem at Swell.com shortly after you complete the 4 surveys.

Costs

You will not be charged for any of the study activities.

Rights

Participation in research is completely voluntary.

You have the right to decline to participate or to withdraw at any point in this study without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

Questions

If you have any questions or concerns about this study, you may contact Ben Arnold, PhD, who is an epidemiologist in the School of Public Health at UC Berkeley and works with Professor Colford. If you have questions please use the study's toll free number [855-351-8198](tel:855-351-8198), or email at: shs@sccwrp.org.

If you have any questions or concerns about your rights and treatment as a research subject, you may contact the office of UC Berkeley's Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects, at 510-642-7461 or subjects@berkeley.edu.

Consent

If you wish to participate in this study, please print a copy of this consent form to keep for your records and confirm by clicking on the Accept button below: