

July 1, 2013

Ms. «motherfirstname» «motherlastname»
«address1»
«address2»
«city», «state» «zip»

Dear Ms. «motherlastname»:

Recently, you completed a telephone interview for the Birth Defects Study To Evaluate Pregnancy exposureS (BD-STEPS). This study will help us learn more about the causes of birth defects. Birth defects researchers in X states are working on this study in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

To better understand genetic factors that may contribute to birth defects, we are asking parents to collect saliva (spit) samples from themselves and their child using the enclosed kit. Saliva samples will be collected from your child by rubbing the inside of his/her cheek with soft sponges. Saliva samples will be collected from each parent by spitting into a funnel connected to a small collection tube.

You or your family’s participation is voluntary, meaning you can choose to take part or not. And, you may withdraw your samples at any time. Please read the enclosed information called “Informed Consent for Saliva Samples”.

If you choose to participate in the study, please sign the consent form and return it with your saliva samples. A second copy of the consent form is enclosed for your records. Also, we’ve included a \$20 gift card to thank you for your time. We will send you an additional \$20 gift card after we receive the saliva samples to thank you for the time you took to complete the study.

If you wish to have more information or have any questions, please contact **<Local PI contact name and number>**.

Thank you for helping us to better understand and prevent birth defects.

Sincerely,

<Insert local PI name and contact>
Enclosures