

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Twin Cities Campus

Minnesota Taconite Workers Health Study

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«fname» «mname» «lname» «suffix»
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«city», «state» «zipcode»

Dear Taconite Worker:

You are invited to participate in the *Respiratory Health Survey of Taconite Workers and Spouses*.

The University of Minnesota is doing the study and it is being paid for by the Minnesota Legislature. The purpose of the study is to determine whether exposure to dust from taconite mining and processing affects lung health. Your name was provided to us by one of the taconite mining companies. If you are married (or living as married), your spouse is also invited to participate in the study.

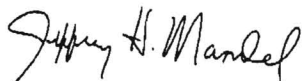
We have enclosed a brochure with important information about the study. **If you would like more information, or want to schedule an appointment, the next step is for you to contact our office at 1-866-978-1822 (toll-free) at your earliest convenience.** If you prefer, you can respond by mail using the enclosed reply card and postage-paid envelope. To participate you must respond by telephone or mail.

If you no longer live on the Iron Range, you may be able to participate in some aspects of the study. Please call the study office, or return the reply card, so we can provide more information about this option.

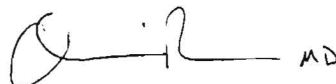
Regardless of your current health status, your participation is important. You, and the other individuals being contacted for this study, were scientifically chosen to represent a cross section of taconite mining workers of different ages who worked in different areas of the range. To make sure the study results are valid, it is important that we include as many of the scientifically chosen workers as possible. All information that you provide will be kept confidential.

Thank you for considering this request. The information collected from this study may help improve the health of miners working today and in the future.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Mandel, MD, MPH
Associate Professor
Principal Investigator



David Perlman, MD
Assistant Professor
Co-Investigator