

You will be notified if you are selected to participate

Participants will be **selected randomly** from employer lists. Individuals selected to participate will receive a letter by mail from the University of Minnesota. To ensure an accurate study, you cannot volunteer or sign up.

Participation includes the following:

- a health questionnaire
- a chest X-ray
- a physical examination
- a blood sample
- two types of lung function tests

These tests will be performed at the study clinic located at the Virginia Regional Medical Center. The appointment is expected to take about two hours.

**There is no cost to participate.**

While no medical procedure or research study is without some risk, the study team will take every step to ensure participants' safety.

A previously unknown medical problem could be detected and reported to a participant and could lead to additional costs for medical testing or follow-up treatment. Any additional testing or treatment costs will not be paid for by this study.

## Contacts and Questions

[www.taconiteworkers.umn.edu](http://www.taconiteworkers.umn.edu)

### Study Physicians:

David Perlman, M.D.  
Jeff Mandel, M.D., M.P.H.

### Study Coordinator:

Leslie Studenski, M.P.H.  
Phone: 612-625-4578  
Fax: 612-625-2126

**Nurse Line:** 1-800-840-7590

### Study Office Mailing Address:

Minnesota Taconite Workers Health Study  
University of Minnesota  
MMC 807  
1235 Mayo Memorial Building  
420 Delaware Street, SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

**This study is being conducted by the University of Minnesota as part of the Minnesota Taconite Workers Health Study.**

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# Respiratory Health Survey

of Taconite Workers and Spouses



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**Driven to Discover**<sup>SM</sup>

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## The University of Minnesota will study 2000 Rangers

The University of Minnesota was asked by the State of Minnesota to conduct a study on whether exposure to dust from taconite mining and processing operations is harmful to taconite workers.

This request followed more than 30 years of questions about the safety of breathing this dust, and recent findings of increased cases of mesothelioma among taconite workers.

As one approach to address these questions, the University of Minnesota is asking 1200 current and former taconite workers and up to 800 spouses to participate in a research study to evaluate their respiratory health. Spouses are being included because they may have been exposed to dust brought home on workers' clothing.

## Benefits of participating in the study

Participants will be part of a comprehensive study that will help answer longstanding questions about whether dust from taconite operations affects the lung health of taconite workers and their spouses.

Participants will receive a summary of their individual test results and may choose to share the results with their own doctor.

This study may help future generations of miners as well as provide information for your own health care.

## Voluntary Participation

Individuals selected to participate can choose whether or not to take part in the study. A decision whether or not to take part will not affect any relations with the University of Minnesota, an employer or a union.

## Confidentiality

**Protecting each individual's privacy is very important to us.** All information provided will be kept confidential and will not be disclosed to anyone but the researchers conducting this study or as required by law.

Researchers diligently protect personal information, such as name, address, and telephone number. Personal information is stored in locked cabinets or password-protected computer files and is only accessible to the researchers and study staff.

Data and samples are stored and analyzed using only study numbers, not names. Published results will be reported in statistical summaries only, and will never include a participant's name.

