

Spit for Science: The Beyond VCU Survey

IRB #:

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Survey Consent: Beyond VCU **Participant**

This document contains the text from the Introduction of the Survey. This constitutes the consent for the survey and is presented on-line. Students who agree to these terms and want to participate in the survey give their consent electronically through the survey link. We encourage all participants to download a copy of this consent form for their records.

Welcome to Spit for Science: The Beyond VCU Survey. Do you want to learn more about the project?

Yes, I want to learn more about Spit for Science: The Beyond VCU Survey [[Link to survey introduction](#)]

No, I want to withdraw from the project [[Link to withdraw from survey](#)]

Thank you for your interest in Spit for Science: The Beyond VCU Survey, a research project led by Drs. Danielle Dick and Kenneth Kendler, which aims to understand how individual predispositions and environmental factors come together to influence substance use and emotional health across the college years and beyond. The attached survey primarily contains questions about your current behavior. It covers topics including your social activities; your social support system and relationships; alcohol and drug use, and other illegal behaviors; personality, emotional health, including depression, anxiety and eating disorders; caffeine use; friends' behavior; nicotine use; and stressful events you might have experienced. It will take approximately 15-30 minutes to complete. You may skip any question that you do not want to answer. If you want to skip a question, please select 'I choose not to answer.'

You will receive a \$15 electronic Amazon gift card for your completion of this survey. If you have previously received compensation for participating in Spit for Science: The VCU Student Survey, you will be instructed on how to obtain your \$15 Amazon gift card electronically following the completion of the survey.

If you have not previously received compensation for participating in Spit for Science: The VCU Student Survey, you will need to submit a W9 form before your payment can be processed. Following the survey, a W9 form will be mailed to you at the address you provide the survey. You will also receive a prepaid envelope to return your completed W9 form. This form will ask for your Social Security number; however, you may decline to provide this information. Once we have received your completed W9 form, you will receive an email instructing you on how to obtain your \$15 Amazon gift card electronically.

In the future, we will be contacting participants again to see if you'd like to complete additional surveys (for additional compensation).

There are no more than minimal risks involved in this survey. You will not get any direct benefit from completing this survey, but the information we learn from people in this study will help us understand why some people are more likely than others to develop problems associated with the use of alcohol, the use of other substances, and emotional health. Responses to the Beyond VCU Survey will be linked with your previous Spit for Science survey(s) and DNA data. We also plan to connect the survey data to other university data, such as academic data (e.g. GPA, enrollment status, major, graduation status, years to completion, etc.) and data related to university involvement (e.g. extra curricular involvement) to understand how behavioral and academic factors are associated with different life outcomes. This information may be used to help guide future VCU programming. This information will be de-identified; your name and other identifiable information will not be connected with these data.

The questionnaire will ask some questions about difficulties that various people experience because of past experiences that were hard, difficulties with substances or other mental health problems. If you are experiencing any challenges in these areas, you can contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255. Even if you are not suicidal, this hotline has experience helping people cope with substance abuse, economic worries, relationship and family problems, sexual orientation, illness, getting over abuse, depression, mental and physical illness, and even loneliness. There is a counselor on call all day, every day, all year long.

Your participation in this research is completely voluntary. The university will not know if you have participated or not nor what your responses to any of the questions are. All responses to this survey will be kept strictly confidential. The people who have access to the names of participants (necessary for reimbursement) will not have access to your survey responses, and the investigators who will be analyzing the data from the survey responses will not have access to your names or any other identifying information. In addition, all of the information collected in this study is protected under a Certificate of Confidentiality issued by the Federal Government. The Certificate prevents us from being compelled to reveal your identity or the information you have given us, even under court order, unless you give written permission to do so. We will use this Certificate to protect the confidentiality of your data. Additional details about the protections and limitations associated with a Certificate of Confidentiality can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/coc/>.

You may choose not to answer any of the questions, and you may withdraw your consent and discontinue participation in this study by selecting 'No, I do not want to participate in this study' from the options below and completing the following withdraw options. Additionally, you can withdraw your consent at any time by contacting the research team at 804-628-4645 or spit4science@vcu.edu. You need to provide a response to all items on the survey to receive the \$15 gift card compensation. You will have an option 'I choose not to answer' for all questions on the survey. Once you complete the survey, or if you leave the survey before finishing, make sure to close your web browser so that others cannot see your information.

You can contact the Spit for Science research team at 804-628-4645 if you have any questions about this project. If you have general questions about your rights as a research subject or general concerns, you may contact:

Office of Research
Virginia Commonwealth University
800 East Leigh Street, Suite 113
PO Box 980568
Richmond, VA 23298
(804) 827-2157

Please call this number if you cannot reach the research team or wish to talk to someone else.

By participating in Spit for Science: The Beyond VCU Survey, you acknowledge that:

- Your answers will be recorded.
- You may be contacted again for follow-up surveys. You will have the opportunity to decline to participate at that time. The information you provide may be used to select individuals to invite them to participate in future studies. You will be contacted about future studies and can decline to participate in any of those studies at that time.
- Coded data (i.e., de-identified data that is not connected to your name or any other identifying information about you) may be shared with other researchers and other individuals at the university.
- If you have previously provided a DNA sample, your survey answers will be associated with that sample using a coded number but not your name or other identifying information. In the future, DNA data and associated survey answers may be included in the National Institutes of Health Genome Wide Association Study (GWAS) database. This is an anonymous and confidential national database that allows approved scientists to work together to advance genetic science. More information about this is available on-line at www.spit4science.vcu.edu. If you chose not to participate in the DNA component, this will not apply to you.

The following options are presented:

Yes, I understand this and want to participate in Spit for Science: The Beyond VCU Survey. (*Link to take them to the survey*)

I want to think about it more before making a decision about participation. Please exit by closing your browser. (Do not
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click 'previous page,' 'next page,' or 'save and return later.')

(Students who choose this option will continue to receive e-mail reminders.)

(Link to the following text):

You can learn more about Spit for Science: The Beyond VCU Survey by visiting our website at [*link to Beyond VCU webpage*]

No, I do not want to participate in the study. (*Link to take them to the withdrawal text*)