

Dear BBS participant,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for taking part in Baby Biome Study.

We contacted you recently to ask for a baby poo sample. It is not too late to return this if you haven't yet done so. Please let us know if you need another kit.

Enclosed is a questionnaire that has been designed to give us as much information as possible without being too long. The questionnaire asks about your baby and their environment, as well as some questions about you. The questionnaire will probably take about 10 minutes to complete. Please complete it as fully as you can and return it in the pre-paid envelope provided.

We plan to contact people who are taking part in the study once more, at around 1 year of age, to ask for another poo sample, and to fill in another brief questionnaire.

If you have any questions, or need another collection kit for a baby poo sample, please contact:

Dr Nigel Field

Research Department of Microbiology and Infection, School of Clinical Medicine, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, UK. Email: n.f1@leeds.ac.uk

Dear BBS participant,

We are contacting you because you agreed to take part in the Baby Biome Study when your baby was born, and may have provided samples. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your participation in the study.

This is a large study, and we appreciate that there will be some people for whom things are not going so well at the moment. If that is the case for your family, please excuse the intrusion, we understand you may not wish to take part at present. If you don't wish to be contacted again, please contact Dr Nigel Field and let us know.

In the study, we are looking at the bacteria in babies' guts, and at how they affect long-term health. For example we want to know if they influence the risk of conditions such as eczema or asthma.

We are able to find out which bacteria are present in the gut by analysing poo samples, as these contain billions of bacteria. We are asking everyone in the study to send us a sample of their baby's poo at around six months after birth.

To do this, please find enclosed a sample collection kit with a pre-paid envelope for its return. It would greatly help with our research if you were able to collect a sample from your baby's nappy and