

## **BIOHM Consent to Participate in Research**

### Consent Document - Key Points

BIOHM aims to make and support scientific discoveries and publish those discoveries in scientific journals. We invite you to take part in this project, which we call **BIOHM Research**. To get started you must agree to the terms in our full consent document (below) that are part of our overall Terms of Service, which you agree to during the checkout process. Please note that any capitalized terms have the definitions given in the Terms of Service and the Privacy Policy. Here are key points you need to know to participate in research:

#### **How do I take part in BIOHM Research?**

- Take surveys or otherwise enter information about yourself into the BIOHM website. You choose which surveys to take and which questions to answer.

#### **Can my child take part in BIOHM Research?**

- Your child may take part in BIOHM Research if he or she gives assent to participate and a parent or legal guardian authorizes BIOHM to use his or her Microbiome & Self-Reported Information for research. For purposes of this consent document, “Your” includes your child, if you are consenting on their behalf.

#### **Can my pet take part in BIOHM Research?**

- You may decide to submit your pet’s Microbiome and certain information about your pet (e.g. age, gender, breed if known) to BIOHM for use in BIOHM Research.

#### **Which of my personal information is used for research?**

- Your Microbiome (or your pet’s Microbiome) and any other personal information you enter into the website, except for your Registration Information (name, contact information, and credit card information), may be analyzed in the research.
- Your name and contact information may be used to communicate with you but are not analyzed in combination with your genetic and other personal information.

#### **Who gets to see my personal information?**

- BIOHM's privacy statement outlines who does and does not get access to the personal information of BIOHM customers; here we list the additional individuals who will get access if you consent to take part in research.
- *Within BIOHM and BIOHM Third Party Labs:* BIOHM researchers who conduct analyses will have access to your Microbiome and other Self-Reported

Information, but not to your name, contact, or credit card information. BIOHM researchers who contact you will have access to names and contact information, but only to very limited Microbiome or other Personal Information.

*Outside of BIOHM:* BIOHM may share some data with external research partners and in scientific publications. These data will be summarized across enough customers to minimize the chance that your Personal Information will be exposed. BIOHM may need to share the information with other agencies as required by law.

### **How will I benefit from this research?**

- By taking surveys you may learn about BIOHM's research findings, including how your answers compare with those of others and new discoveries made by BIOHM's research program.
- Sometime in the future you or your family may benefit indirectly from research discoveries made by BIOHM or its research partners.

### **What are the risks of taking part in this research?**

- There is a very small chance that someone with access to the research data or results could expose personal information about you. BIOHM has security policies and practices in place to minimize the chance of such an event.

### **Can I stop taking part in BIOHM Research?**

- Yes, you can withdraw yourself, your child, or your pet from BIOHM Research at any time. Any of your data that have already been used as part of a study cannot be withdrawn, but your data will not be included in studies that start more than 30 days after you withdraw (it may take up to 30 days to withdraw your information after you withdraw your consent). To withdraw, simply send your request to [care@BIOHMHealth.com](mailto:care@BIOHMHealth.com).

### **Full Consent Document**

One of BIOHM's missions is to make and support meaningful scientific discoveries by enabling its customers to participate directly in research. BIOHM has enrolled participants from among its customers in this project, which we call **BIOHM Research**. Specifically, BIOHM Research refers to research aimed at publication in peer-reviewed journals and research funded by the federal government (such as the National Institutes of Health - NIH). The BIOHM Research study aims to uncover connections among various human and animal health issues and lifestyle choices and the gut microbiome, in order to further the overall science and understanding of the role that the gut microbiome plays in health and wellness.

For further details on BIOHM's other uses of personal information, see our Privacy Policy above

BIOHM seeks your voluntary participation in **BIOHM Research**. This

document explains:

- 1 What you are agreeing to if you consent
- 2 How you can participate
- 3 How your data will be used
- 4 How we protect your data and keep it private
- 5 The benefits and risks of participation
- 6 Your options and how to withdraw
- 7 Who to contact if you have questions

### **1. What am I agreeing to if I consent?**

Giving consent by agreeing to the Terms of Service at checkout means that you agree to let BIOHM researchers use your Microbiome & Self-Reported Information for BIOHM Research, as described above. "Microbiome & Self-Reported Information" refers to:

- Your gut microbiome results and related data
- Information you enter into surveys, forms and other features
- Data you authorize us to import for research
- Your (or your child's) age and ethnicity

Self-Reported Information includes any information you submit. We may also use the results of further analysis of your sample in BIOHM Research. Your Microbiome & Self-Reported Information does not include identifying Registration Information you provided when you purchased a test or created an account (such as name, address, email address, user ID, password, or credit card information).

### **2. How do I participate?**

Participation consists of (1) allowing BIOHM researchers to use your Microbiome & Self-Reported Information for BIOHM Research, and (2) entering data about yourself, your child, or your pet into BIOHM Research features on the BIOHM website, or submitting it to BIOHM through various features. These features include surveys, individual questions, and other features where you enter information. If you do not feel comfortable providing a piece of information, you may choose not to answer that question. You may choose to take all, some, or none of the surveys.

The BIOHM Research study is open-ended: new surveys and features may be added on a continuing basis. If new surveys or features are added, you may receive an email update or see an announcement when you sign in to your account. We might invite you to participate in a specific study if your Microbiome & Self-Reported Information matches the area of interest. If you wish not to be contacted about future studies, please opt-out of these communications by emailing us at [care@BIOHMHealth.com](mailto:care@BIOHMHealth.com)

Your participation in the BIOHM Research study is completely voluntary.

### **3. How will my data be used in BIOHM Research?**

Your Microbiome & Self-Reported Information may be used to discover links between

the gut microbiome and various states of health and wellness, lifestyle choices and biology. Discoveries made as a result of this research could be used to understand the basic causes of disease, develop drugs or other treatments and/or preventive measures, or predict a person's risk of disease. The topics to be studied span a wide range of traits and conditions, from common to rare.

Some of these studies may be sponsored by or conducted on behalf of third parties, such as non-profit foundations, academic institutions or pharmaceutical companies.

This study may cover potentially sensitive topics such as sexual orientation, illicit drug use or other illegal behavior, or HIV/AIDS status. In the event we collect this type of sensitive information, BIOHM and its research partners will protect the privacy of this information in accordance with applicable laws.

#### **4. How do you keep my data protected and private (whether or not I consent)?**

BIOHM's Privacy Policy [\[link\]](#) outlines how the company protects your privacy while conducting business, such as providing our services to you. BIOHM uses a range of physical, technical, and administrative procedures to protect the privacy of your personal information, including your genetic data and your survey responses.

If you agree to participate in BIOHM Research, BIOHM researchers can use your data for research that will be published in scientific journals, or that is sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and certain other organizations. In the event any research is published, we will not include any identifying information that would make it likely that anyone could identify you or your child.

Just as BIOHM aims to minimize the chances of a privacy breach while conducting its business, BIOHM researchers aim to minimize the chances of a privacy breach while conducting research. Here are the main ways we do that:

- The BIOHM researchers who conduct the statistical analyses do not have access to Registration Information (name, address, email address, user ID, password, or credit card) of customers
- BIOHM researchers who interact with research participants and conduct interviews have access to names and contact information of participants, but only to very limited Microbiome and other personal information necessary to conduct interviews
- To minimize the chance that an external person can determine that any particular customer is part of a study, BIOHM researchers either
  - publish only data de-identified and pooled across multiple customers or
  - publish only very limited, non-identifying information of a single individual

#### **5. What are the benefits and risks of participation?**

Benefits: One of BIOHM's missions is to make meaningful scientific contributions by enabling its customers to participate directly in microbiome research. If BIOHM publishes study results in peer-reviewed journals, there may be an indirect benefit to

you as scientific knowledge increases and/or new drugs or tests are developed. You may also have the opportunity to acquire one or more of the following, in return for some level of participation in the research:

- Comparison of your personal survey responses to those of all responders, additional information about the microbiome, microbiome research or the BIOHM study, and/or preliminary research findings (all other participant responses will have all personal identifier removed before comparisons are shared with you)
- There may be additional benefits to participation that are currently unforeseeable.

Based on the results of this study, BIOHM may develop intellectual property, including but not limited to patents, copyrights and trademarks, and/or BIOHM may commercialize products or services, directly or indirectly. In such cases you will not receive any compensation.

#### Risks:

There are some potential risks to participating in the BIOHM Research study, as described below.

- Some survey questions or data comparisons may make you or your family members uncomfortable.
- Your Microbiome Results, survey responses, and/or personally identifying information may be compromised in the event of a security breach. In the event of such a breach, if your data are associated with your identity, they may be made public or released to third parties. In addition, if you or a family member has Microbiome Results linked to your name or your family member's name in a public database, someone who has access to your BIOHM Microbiome Results might be able to link that data to your name or your family member's name through the publicly available research data. Although BIOHM cannot provide a 100% guarantee that your data will be safe, BIOHM has strong policies and procedures in place to minimize the possibility of a breach.
- When BIOHM researchers publish results from this ongoing study, they may include your Microbiome & Self-Reported Information but only as part of a summary across enough people to minimize the chance that your personal information will be exposed. Identification of your individual-level data from those summaries would be extremely difficult, but it is possible that a third party that has obtained some of your microbiome data could compare that partial data to the published results and infer some of your other personal information.
- As with any online service, if you disclose your account password to others, they may be able to access your account and your Microbiome & Self-Reported Information.
- There may be additional risks to participation that are currently unforeseeable.

None of the surveys or other procedures used by the researchers in the BIOHM Research study is invasive or experimental. The procedures involved do not involve more than the minimal risks described above.

#### **6. Do I have any alternatives? Can I withdraw from this study?**

Your alternative is not to participate in the BIOHM Research study. If you choose not to give consent for BIOHM Research, your Microbiome & Self-Reported Information may still be used for other purposes, as described in our Privacy

Policy. If you do give consent to participate in this study, you may choose not to take BIOHM Research surveys or use other BIOHM Research features.

At any time, you may choose to change your consent status to either take part in BIOHM Research or to withdraw all or some of your Microbiome & Self-Reported Information (including your Sample) from BIOHM Research. Simply send an email to [care@BIOHMHealth.com](mailto:care@BIOHMHealth.com) to make such request. If you withdraw all or some of your Microbiome & Self-Reported Information, BIOHM will prevent that information from being used in new BIOHM Research initiated after 30 days from receipt of your request (it may take up to 30 days to withdraw your information after you withdraw your consent). Any research on your Microbiome & Self-Reported Information (including your Sample) that has been performed or published prior to this date will not be reversed, undone, or withdrawn.

Choosing not to give consent or withdrawing from BIOHM Research will not affect your access to your Microbiome Results or to the BIOHM Services.

In addition, the BIOHM Research study may be terminated without your consent. In the following cases, BIOHM will maintain your Microbiome & Self-Reported Information according to the terms of our Privacy Statement.

1. Transfer of ownership. If BIOHM undergoes a business transition such as an acquisition or merger, the BIOHM Research study may be terminated. In such case, your Personal Information would remain subject to the promises made in any pre-existing Privacy Policy.
2. Termination of service. BIOHM may terminate your access to the BIOHM Service for any reason in its sole discretion. If your access to the BIOHM Service is terminated for any of these reasons, your participation in the BIOHM Research study may also be terminated.

#### **7. Who do I contact if I have questions?**

If you have **general questions and need help with** BIOHM's service, please contact:

- [care@BIOHMHealth.com](mailto:care@BIOHMHealth.com)
- If you have **any questions or concerns about the BIOHM Research study, if you suffer a research-related injury, or if you have a question about subjects' rights**, please contact the following:
- BIOHM Human Protections Administrator
- Email: [care@BIOHMHealth.com](mailto:care@BIOHMHealth.com)

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE CLICKING AGREEING TO OUR TERMS OF SERVICE AGREEMENT:

By clicking “I Agree,” for our Terms of Service agreement, I also confirm that I have read and understand this BIOHM Consent to Participate in Research. If I am consenting to allow my child to participate in BIOHM Research, I am authorized to consent on behalf of my child, and I have discussed the study with him/her. If my child is thirteen years or older, my child has agreed (“assented”) to take part.

I understand my or my child’s participation is voluntary, and that I am free to withdraw myself or my child at any time, without giving a reason, and without affecting my access to other BIOHM Services. I understand that by clicking “I agree” I am not waiving any legal rights that I or my child otherwise have.

I understand that information described above, including my Microbiome Results, will be viewed by responsible individuals representing the BIOHM or its research partners, supervisory bodies, or regulatory authorities where it is relevant to taking part in this research.

I agree that my or my child’s Microbiome Results & Self-Reported Information (including the Samples) may be used as described in this BIOHM Consent to Participate in Research and the accompanying Privacy Policy and Terms of Service.

I can print a copy of this BIOHM Consent to Participate in Research to keep for my records.

**“I Agree”**

\*This BIOHM Consent to Participate in Research was last updated on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018