**Why do you need my family’s DNA?**

Families have been key to advancing genetics research. While we already know some genes that are associated with autism, not everyone with autism has changes in these genes. When we compare each family’s DNA to all the others, we look for genes that appear repeatedly in families with autism. Additional genetic data will help us learn more.

**Whose DNA do you need?**

The SPARK team needs DNA from the individual with autism, their biological parents, and one saliva kit for genome wide genetic testing. We will use this information to help us expand our understanding of autism.

What is the process for submitting my family’s DNA to SPARK?

**1.** Submit your saliva sample:
   - **You** spit into the kit and mail it back to SPARK.
   - **Your spit** is analyzed and stored at SPARK.
   - **Your kit** is labeled with a unique study identification number.

**2.** Help us compare DNA:
   - **We** compare entire DNA samples from the same family.
   - **Siblings** (unaffected and affected) and the biological parents.
   - **The differences** in DNA may lead to a better understanding of autism.

**3.** Return results:
   - **We** return results to a research coordinator at SPARK.
   - **Research coordinator** contacts you personally to report results.
   - **Ask you** to mail the saliva kit back to us at no cost.

**Where do my family’s DNA samples go?**

**1.** SPARK researchers will keep your saliva sample in a secure laboratory.
   - Your saliva sample will be tested for DNA.
   - Your saliva sample will be used only for research.

**2.** DNA results will be used within your family.
   - **Your genetic results** will be shared only with your family members.
   - DNA results will be used only for research.

**3.** Additional groups may have access to your DNA.
   - **SPARK studies** may want to use your DNA.
   - **Outside research** may need access to your DNA.

Who has access to my family’s DNA?

**1.** The Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative's SPARK Study.
   - **SPARK study** will be able to access your DNA.
   - **SPARK collaborating scientists** will be able to access your DNA.

**2.** The Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative.
   - **SPARK researchers** will be able to access your DNA.
   - **SPARK staff** will be able to access your DNA.

**3.** Simon's Foundation Autism Research Initiative.
   - **SPARK coordinating center** will be able to access your DNA.
   - **SPARK core laboratory** will be able to access your DNA.

**4.** SPARK research participants.
   - **Any participant in the SPARK Study** will be able to access your DNA.

**5.** Other SPARK research participants.
   - **Any participant in the SPARK Study** will be able to access your DNA.

**6.** Federal, state, and local government agencies.
   - **Government agencies** may have access to your DNA.
   - **Government agencies** may only view your DNA.

**7.** Genetic information may be available in the public domain.
   - **Public domain** may have access to your DNA.
   - **Public domain** may only view your DNA.

**8.** Genetic information may be available in the public domain.
   - **Public domain** may have access to your DNA.
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**What are the risks around submitting my family’s DNA to SPARK?**

**1.** Your genetic data will be kept confidential:
   - **Your genetic data** will be kept confidential.
   - **Your genetic data** will not be shared with anyone outside our team.

**2.** Your genetic data will be protected:
   - **Your genetic data** will be protected.
   - **Your genetic data** will be kept secure.

**3.** Your genetic data will be used only for research:
   - **Your genetic data** will be used only for research.
   - **Your genetic data** will not be used for any other purpose.

**Will the genetic results be returned to me/my family?**

**1.** We will do our best to inform you how to locate your genetic results.
   - **We** will do our best to inform you how to locate your genetic results.
   - **We** will do our best to inform you how to locate your genetic results.

**2.** You can choose to accept or decline genetic results:
   - **You** can choose to accept or decline genetic results.
   - **You** can choose to accept or decline genetic results.

**3.** You can choose whether or not to receive genetic results:
   - **You** can choose whether or not to receive genetic results.
   - **You** can choose whether or not to receive genetic results.

**4.** You can choose to receive genetic results:
   - **You** can choose to receive genetic results.
   - **You** can choose to receive genetic results.

**5.** You can choose not to receive genetic results:
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