

Could Vectors Hold Important Clues to Inflammation and Neurodegenerative Disease?

INSIGHT Institute for Neurodegenerative Research

| PO Box 1481, Lincoln, CA 95648 | 916-834-8760 |

www.insightnd.org

Each sampling kit contains materials for ONE (1) sample submission. Please email us if you would like further testing by location or for other vectors.

1. Complete the submission form

Provide the requested contact information on the Vector Testing submission form.

2. What will we be testing for?

Dust Mites, Demodex, Scabies and Cheyletiella Mites will be tested.

Emerging scientific research raises important questions about the potential connections between mites, inflammation, and neurological health.

Published research highlights several findings worth investigating:

- **Demodex mites:** Associated with inflammatory skin and eye conditions. Their potential relationship to symptoms observed in Parkinson's disease warrants further investigation.
- **Scabies mites:** A 2024 nationwide population-based study found a 46% higher adjusted rate of Parkinson's disease among individuals with a history of scabies.
- **House dust mites:** A 2024 study demonstrated that house dust mite-induced asthma worsened Alzheimer's-related brain pathology and neuroinflammation in a mouse model.
- **Cheyletiella mites:** Can cause significant inflammatory skin reactions and hypersensitivity responses in humans, raising additional questions about the broader effects of mite-associated inflammation.

3. Sampling multiple environmental areas

Sampling mattresses, baseboards, couches, window sills, and other undisturbed areas where dust accumulates is recommended. Swabs will be combined unless otherwise specified. Because of oils, soaps, and lotions, swabs are not intended to detect insects directly on skin. Testing is designed to detect DNA from insects and other organisms that may be present in the environment.

4. Collect environmental samples

Three sterile foam-tipped swab included in the kit. Gently press and roll the swab over the area to be tested. Insect fragments collected on the swab may also be suitable for testing. Q-Tips, makeup brushes, tape, and glue traps are not acceptable and will not be tested.

5. Secure the sample

Return the swab to its transport tube and close securely.

6. Label multiple samples

Label transport tubes numerically (1, 2, 3, etc.). Package samples in separate labeled bags.

7. Package and ship

Place samples, payment, and the completed submission form in a shipping envelope. USPS is recommended for reliable tracking. Mail to Insight Institute for Neurodegenerative Research PO Box 1481, Lincoln, CA 95648

Results, research review, and privacy

All test results will be delivered by email. Results will also be reviewed for potential research targets. To protect privacy, samples will be identified by a unique number rather than personal information; no personal identifying information will be sent to the testing laboratory. Please do not put any personal information on the swab, only numbers.

Important sample limitations

Incomplete forms or improper collection may delay processing. Human skin, blood, feces, urine, hair, debris attached to tape, glue traps, and other unsuitable collection materials will not be accepted. Testing of environmental samples does not by itself establish the cause of skin or eye symptoms.

Your participation can help advance research into the possible connections between environmental exposures, inflammation, and neurological health. If you experience an increase or decrease in Parkinson's-related symptoms, eye conditions, or skin issues following your initial testing, we encourage you to consider repeat testing for research purposes. Comparing results over time may provide valuable insights into potential associations between these symptoms and the biological factors being investigated. Please let us know if you would be interested in participating in follow-up testing to help advance this research.

These associations are preliminary and do not establish that mites or ticks cause neurodegenerative disease. Testing is exploratory and is not intended to diagnose Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, or other neurological conditions.

Questions or additional information: info@insightnd.org

VECTOR TESTING SUBMISSION FORM



INSIGHT
Institute
for Neurodegenerative Research

PO Box 1481, Lincoln, CA 95648
Phone: 916-834-8760 www.insightnd.org

Name:

Location:

Date:

A
C
C
O
U
N
T

Name

Address

City

State/ZIP

Phone#

Email

