

## Homebiotic Consent to Participate in Research

### Consent Document - Key Points

Homebiotic 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 **Homebiotic 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 Homebiotic Research?**

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

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

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

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

- Your Home 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 environmental and other personal information.

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

- Homebiotic's privacy statement outlines who does and does not get access to the personal information of Homebiotic customers; here we list the additional individuals who will get access if you consent to take part in research.
- *Within Homebiotic and Homebiotic Third Party Labs:* Homebiotic 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. Homebiotic researchers who contact you will have access to names and contact information, but only to very limited Microbiome or other Personal Information.

*Outside of Homebiotic:* Homebiotic 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. Homebiotic 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 Homebiotic's research findings, including how your answers compare with those of others and new discoveries made by Homebiotic's research program.
- Sometime in the future you or your family may benefit indirectly from research discoveries made by Homebiotic 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. Homebiotic has security policies and practices in place to minimize the chance of such an event.

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

- Yes, you can withdraw yourself, your family, and your home from Homebiotic 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 [support@homebiotic.com](mailto:support@homebiotic.com).

### **Full Consent Document**

One of Homebiotic's missions is to make and support meaningful scientific discoveries by enabling its customers to participate directly in research. Homebiotic has enrolled participants from among its customers in this project, which we call **Homebiotic Research**. Specifically, Homebiotic 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 Homebiotic Research study aims to uncover connections among various human and home health issues and lifestyle choices and the home microbiome, in order to further the overall science and understanding of the role that environmental microbiomes play in health and wellness.

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

Homebiotic seeks your voluntary participation in **Homebiotic 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 Homebiotic researchers use your Home Microbiome & Self-Reported Information for Homebiotic Research, as described above. "Home Microbiome & Self-Reported Information" refers to:

- Your home 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 general health symptoms

Self-Reported Information includes any information you submit. We may also use the results of further analysis of your sample in Homebiotic Research. Your Home 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 Homebiotic researchers to use your Home Microbiome & Self-Reported Information for Homebiotic Research, and (2) entering data about yourself, your family, and your home into Homebiotic Research features on the Homebiotic website, or submitting it to Homebiotic 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 Homebiotic 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 Home 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 [support@homebiotic.com](mailto:support@homebiotic.com)

Your participation in the Homebiotic Research study is completely voluntary.

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

Your Home Microbiome & Self-Reported Information may be used to discover links between the home 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 interactions of environmental microbes and human health, as well as uncovering potentially previously unknown links between certain health effects and exposure to certain microbiological species. 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.

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

Homebiotic's Privacy Policy outlines how the company protects your privacy while conducting business, such as providing our services to you. Homebiotic 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 Homebiotic Research, Homebiotic 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 family.

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

- The Homebiotic 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
- Homebiotic 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, Homebiotic 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 Homebiotic's missions is to make meaningful scientific contributions by enabling its customers to participate directly in environmental microbiome research. If Homebiotic publishes study results in peer-reviewed journals, there may be an indirect benefit to you as scientific knowledge increases and/or new products or treatments 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 home microbiome, environmental microbiome research or the Homebiotic 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, Homebiotic may develop intellectual property, including but not limited to patents, copyrights and trademarks, and/or Homebiotic 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 Homebiotic Research study, as described below.

- Some survey questions or data comparisons may make you or your family members uncomfortable.
- Your Home 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 Home Microbiome Results linked to your name or your family member's name in a public database, someone who has access to your Homebiotic 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 Homebiotic cannot provide a 100% guarantee that your data will be safe, Homebiotic has strong policies and procedures in place to minimize the possibility of a breach.

- When Homebiotic 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 home 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 Home 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 Homebiotic 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 Homebiotic Research study. If you choose not to give consent for Homebiotic Research, your Home 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 Homebiotic Research surveys or use other Homebiotic Research features.

At any time, you may choose to change your consent status to either take part in Homebiotic Research or to withdraw all or some of your Microbiome & Self-Reported Information (including your Sample) from Homebiotic Research. Simply send an email to [support@homebiotic.com](mailto:support@homebiotic.com) to make such request. If you withdraw all or some of your Home Microbiome & Self-Reported Information, Homebiotic will prevent that information from being used in new Homebiotic 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 Home Microbiome & Self-Reported Information (including your Samples) 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 Homebiotic Research will not affect your access to your Microbiome Results or to the Homebiotic Services.

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

1. Transfer of ownership. If Homebiotic undergoes a business transition such as an acquisition or merger, the Homebiotic 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. Homebiotic may terminate your access to the Homebiotic Service for any reason in its sole discretion. If your access to the Homebiotic Service is terminated for any of these reasons, your participation in the Homebiotic Research study may also be terminated.

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

If you have **general questions and need help with** Homebiotic's service OR If you have **any questions or concerns about the Homebiotic Research study, if you suffer a research-**

***related injury, or if you have a question about subjects' rights***, please contact support@homebiotic.com

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

By agreeing to our Terms of Service policies, I also confirm that I have read and understand this Homebiotic Consent to Participate in Research. If I am consenting to allow my family to participate in Homebiotic 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 family's participation is voluntary, and that I am free to withdraw myself or my family at any time, without giving a reason, and without affecting my access to other Homebiotic Services. I understand that by agreeing I am not waiving any legal rights that I or my child otherwise have.

I understand that information described above, including my Home Microbiome Results, will be viewed by responsible individuals representing the Homebiotic 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 family's Home Microbiome Results & Self-Reported Information (including the Samples) may be used as described in this Homebiotic Consent to Participate in Research and the accompanying Privacy Policy and Terms of Service.

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

\*This Homebiotic Consent to Participate in Research was last updated on February 25, 2020.