

# Respiratory Health Survey of Taconite Workers and Spouses

Dear Rangers,

The University of Minnesota has been asked by the State of Minnesota to conduct an important research study on whether exposure to dust from taconite mining and processing is harmful to taconite workers.

## **Your participation can make a difference**

Over the next several months, the University of Minnesota is asking **1,200 current and former workers and 800 spouses** to take part in a research study to evaluate lung health. Spouses are being included because they may have been exposed to dust brought home on workers' clothing.

While the study is voluntary, your participation may help future generations of miners as well as provide information to you about your own health.

## **Call if you receive a letter**

If you receive a letter inviting you to participate, please call the number in the letter to get more information. Your call is important even if you don't want to participate.

If you participate in the study, a lung health exam will be performed at the Virginia Regional Medical Center. The exam includes:

- health history questionnaire
- a chest X-ray
- a physical examination
- a blood sample
- two types of lung function tests

## **Join us for an Open House Oct. 22**

To learn more about the study, the University is hosting an **open house** at the **Virginia Regional Medical Center**, Suite 117 in the Medical Arts Building at 901 Ninth Street N, Virginia, Minnesota, from **1 to 2 p.m. and again from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 22.**

For more information, call 888-840-7590 or go to [www.taconiteworkers.umn.edu](http://www.taconiteworkers.umn.edu).

Sincerely,

**John R. Finnegan, Jr., Ph.D.**  
Dean, School of Public Health  
University of Minnesota

**Ron Dicklich**  
Executive Director  
Range Association of Municipalities and Schools

