

## Transferring DNA Data Between Testing Sites

Genealogists benefit from having their DNA on multiple testing sites. This is often called “fishing in all the ponds”. Benefits include expanding the number of DNA matches and utilizing different tools available at the various testing sites. Even if you only test at one or two sites, you can transfer DNA to other sites for free or at a lower cost than testing multiple times. As an example, if you tested at Ancestry, you might want to transfer your raw data to MyHeritage, FTDNA, and LivingDNA. Note that Ancestry and 23andMe do not allow raw data transfer into their sites, but you can transfer data out. Some testing sites focus on specific geographic regions, e.g, MyHeritage is strong in Europe and LivingDNA focuses on the British Isles. When you upload your DNA data to a new site, it may take a while (hours to days) for the company to process your data and your matches to become available. Links to instructions for downloading and uploading raw data at the different test sites are provided below (largest testing sites listed first).

When you transfer DNA to a new site, you will probably also want to upload your GEDCOM file (Genealogical Communications file, i.e., family tree) to the new site. Links to instructions for uploading your GEDCOM to the various sites are also provided below. Your GEDCOM can be created using your family tree software (Family Tree Maker, Legacy, RootsMagic, etc.) or by downloading the GEDCOM from a site like Ancestry.

### Downloading Raw DNA

Download DNA from Ancestry:

[https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Downloading-DNA-Data?language=en\\_US](https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Downloading-DNA-Data?language=en_US)

Download DNA from 23andMe:

<https://customercare.23andme.com/hc/en-us/articles/212196868-Accessing-Your-Raw-Genetic-Data>

Download DNA from MyHeritage:

<https://faq.myheritage.com/en/article/how-do-i-download-my-raw-dna-data-file-from-myheritage>

Download DNA from FTDNA:

<https://learn.familytreedna.com/autosomal-ancestry/universal-dna-matching/may-download-family-finder-raw-data/>

Download DNA from LivingDNA:

<https://support.livingdna.com/hc/en-us/articles/360011384960-How-do-I-download-my-raw-data->

### **Uploading Raw DNA**

Upload DNA to MyHeritage:

<https://faq.myheritage.com/en/article/how-can-i-upload-a-dna-file-to-myheritage>

Upload DNA to FTDNA:

<https://learn.familytreedna.com/imports/autosomal-transfer/family-tree-dna-family-finder-transfer-program/>

Upload DNA to LivingDNA

<https://livingdna.com/free-dna-upload>

Upload DNA to GEDmatch

GEDMatch is NOT a testing site, but it provides the opportunity to compare data with people who have tested at different sites. They also have an extensive array of tools.

<https://www.gedmatch.com/how-it-works>

Remember: You cannot upload DNA to Ancestry or 23andMe. You must test at those sites.

### **Uploading GEDCOMs (Family Trees)**

Ancestry (includes instructions for both downloading and uploading GEDCOMs):

[https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Uploading-and-Downloading-Trees?language=en\\_US](https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Uploading-and-Downloading-Trees?language=en_US)

23andMe: You cannot upload a GEDCOM to 23and me, but you can link to your family tree. Go to User Name > Settings > Edit Personal Information > Edit enhanced profile > Share a link to your online family tree (enter URL)

MyHeritage: <https://faq.myheritage.com/en/article/how-do-i-upload-import-a-gedcom-file-to-my-family-site-on-myheritage>

FTDNA: <https://learn.familytreedna.com/ftdna/how-to-family-tree/>

LivingDNA: LivingDNA does not currently support family trees.

GEDmatch: [https://app.gedmatch.com/v\\_upload\\_gedcomx.php](https://app.gedmatch.com/v_upload_gedcomx.php)