

COVID-19 & Newborn Screening

Although the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services is responding to COVID-19, newborn screening guidelines are not changing at this time. An update will be sent if regulations are suspended via Executive Order.

1st Bloodspot Screen

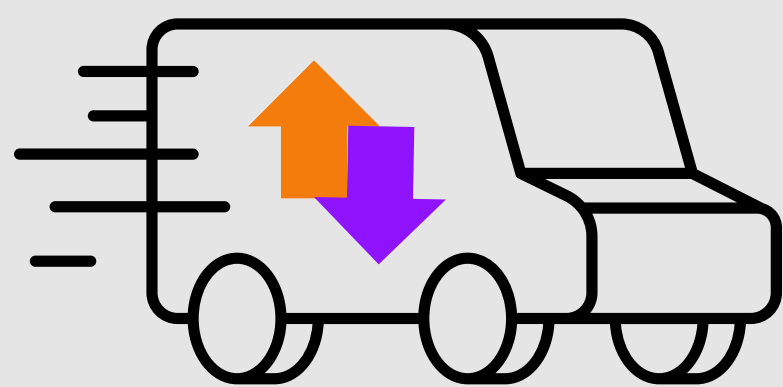
Collect between 24-48 hours of age

- **OR** prior to parenteral nutrition or RBC transfusion
- **OR** prior to discharge, even if before 24 hours



- If safe, encourage parents to keep the baby at the hospital until 24 hours to avoid having to return to get a repeat after 24 hours, by 7 days of age.
- Because of the increased risk of false-positive results or uncertainty of results, these diseases are not screened on <24-hour specimens: CPH, CAH, CF, PD MPS-I, and X-ALD. AA disorders may not be detected reliably in early samples.

Transit Times



- All samples should be dried horizontally for 3-4 hours, preferably in a central location.
- Dried samples should be shipped within 24 hours if pickup is available.
- There are no changes to the UPS or Fed Ex pickup schedules at this time.
- Do NOT batch samples! Send samples that are dry, even if it's just one sample.

Hearing Screening

The Joint Committee on Infant Hearing has established 1-3-6 goals for newborn hearing screening and follow-up.



All infants should receive a hearing screening by **one** month of age.

All infants who refer should receive a diagnostic evaluation by **three** months of age.

All infants who are identified as deaf or hard of hearing should begin receiving early intervention services by **six** months of age.



We understand that there may be delays in the follow-up process during this uncertain time, and we will work with families and professionals to accommodate any changes due to limited access to care.

CCHD Screening



- Complete pulse ox at 24 hours of age, no later than 48 hours
- If the baby fails, follow usual reporting, evaluation and referral protocols



Early screening at < 24 hours of age increases the risk of both false-positive and false-negative results.



Nebraska Newborn Screening does not recommend deviating from these testing timelines.

Regulations continue to be in effect.



If newborn screening procedures at your facility are being considered for alteration due to COVID-19, please contact the Newborn Screening Program for guidance.

DHHS.NewbornScreening@Nebraska.gov



If newborn hearing screening procedures at your facility are being considered for alteration due to COVID-19, please inform the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program of the changes or to receive guidance.

DHHS.NEEHDI@Nebraska.gov