

NEWBORN BLOOD SPOT SCREENING

Your baby needs a screening!

What is newborn screening?

Newborn blood spot screening is done on a tiny sample of blood taken from your baby's heel 24 to 48 hours after birth to test for rare, hidden conditions that may affect your baby's health and development.

Is my baby too old for a newborn screen?

It is recommended that the newborn blood spot screen is collected 24 to 48 hours after birth. However, a baby is never too old for screening. Some of the disorders detected through screening may stay hidden for months or even years. So it is still very important to have the newborn screen collected even if your baby is no longer a newborn.

Why is newborn blood spot screening important?

Babies who appear healthy and come from healthy families can still have serious medical conditions. Newborn screening helps health professionals identify and treat conditions before they can cause serious health problems, disability, or even death. Most babies identified through newborn screening are treated early and grow up healthy.

What do I do now?

Call your baby's health care provider as soon as possible to schedule a newborn blood spot screen. If you know your baby has already had a newborn screen, please call 800-877-6246 to update your baby's record.



GOOD TO KNOW

More than 1 in 300 newborns have a condition detectable through newborn screening.

In addition to blood spot screening, all babies should also be screened for hearing loss and critical congenital heart disease 24 to 48 hours after birth. Ask your health care provider about your baby's results!

Newborn screening is one of the greatest public health achievements of the 20th century according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
Bureau of Genetics and Healthy Childhood 800-877-6246

health.mo.gov/newbornscreening

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