

Newborn Screening

How does it work?



Baby is born!



24-48 hours after birth 3 tests are done to check your baby's health:

-  Hearing screening
-  Heart screening
-  Blood spot screening

Blood spot screening: a few drops of blood are taken from your baby's heel and placed on a special form which is sent to the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory for testing.



Hearing and heart screening: only takes a few minutes. Ask for your baby's results when the tests are done.



At the lab, blood spots are cut into smaller circles and special equipment is used to test the blood. Your baby is tested for more than **70 health problems**.



Each blood spot is smaller than the size of a dime.

Normal Results: If everything looks OK, the results are sent to your baby's health care provider. Ask for your baby's results at the first newborn visit!

Abnormal Results: If there might be a problem, the lab will call your baby's health care provider. Screening can only tell us if your baby **MIGHT** have a health problem. We won't know for sure until your baby has more testing. Your baby's health care provider will talk to you about what needs to happen next.



After Newborn Screening

What happens to leftover blood spots and results?



Once the newborn screening test is done, the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory will store the remaining newborn screening sample for five years. The storage is secure. Missouri law allows for the stored sample to be used for research that may find better ways to test, treat and cure major childhood diseases. Your baby is not identified to the researcher in any way. After five years, the remainder of the sample will be destroyed. **This happens automatically and does not require parents to do anything else.**



The law also allows the parent or legal guardian the option of not having their baby's leftover newborn screening sample stored or studied. **You may ask the State Public Health Laboratory to:**

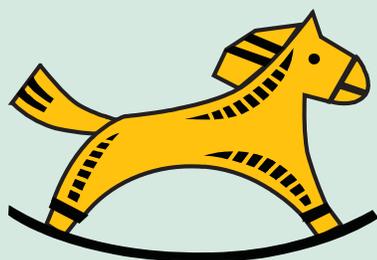
- Give the leftover newborn screening sample back to you.
- Destroy the leftover newborn screening sample after your baby's newborn tests are completed.
- Store the leftover newborn screening sample for 5 years but do not release it for research.



If you choose NOT to allow your baby's leftover newborn screening sample to be studied, select one of the above 3 options.

Next, state your choice in writing and send to:

Missouri State Public Health Laboratory
Attn: Laboratory Director
PO Box 570
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570



Include this information:

- ✓ Baby's name
- ✓ Baby's date of birth
- ✓ Mother's first and last name
- ✓ Option you are choosing (above)
- ✓ Your current address
- ✓ Your signature and current date



Benefits of Storing Leftover Samples:

- **Family needs:** Some families ask for the samples to do other testing if their child gets sick. The samples could also be used to identify a missing or deceased child.
- **Testing improvements:** Leftover samples can be used to make sure the tests and equipment used in the laboratory are working properly so that we make sure we find all babies who might have one of the health problems identified through newborn screening. This is called quality control or assurance.
- **Developing new tests:** Studying leftover samples can help researchers develop new tests that lead to the detection of more disorders so that more babies can receive early intervention and life improving care. All samples used for research are de-identified, meaning that the baby's name, birth date and other identifying information is removed. The researcher does not know who the baby is.



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services • Bureau of Genetics and Healthy Childhood

800-877-6246 • health.mo.gov/newbornscreening

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Hearing- and speech-impaired citizens can dial 711.



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