



Temporary Change in 2nd Newborn Screening Recommendations

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the usual recommendation for second screens for infants in Washington State?

The Washington State Newborn Screening Program routinely recommends collecting a second screen when the infant is between one to two weeks of age. This is usually collected at a well-child visit or at an outpatient laboratory. This screen helps us find babies with newborn screening conditions who had normal first tests. The second screen is not required by law, but is considered standard of care.

As a reminder, state law mandates collection of first newborn screening specimens by the time the infant is 48 hours of age; it can be refused only for religious reasons (parental signature after reading the statement on the back of the newborn screening card must be collected and sent). We recommend specimen collection after the infant is 18 hours of age; however, if the infant is being discharged from medical care sooner, please collect the specimen before discharge.

What is the *temporary* recommendation for routine second screens for infants in Washington State?

Due to COVID-19, the Washington State Newborn Screening Program is temporarily suspending our recommendation to collect routine second screens for infants with previous normal results. **This does not impact the mandated collection of first newborn screens nor should it discourage families from bringing their infant to a well child visit.** *Many pediatric primary care providers will continue to recommend a two week visit for infants and a second newborn screen can be done at that time, as usual. Families can be assured that precautions have been taken to make clinics a safe place for their newborn care during the pandemic.*



How long will this change be in effect?

This temporary change will go into effect April 1, 2020 until further notice.

When should a second screen *still* be collected?

If you can collect a second screen during a well-child visit, please do so.

We also recommend collecting a second newborn screen in the following other cases:

- Infants who are sick, premature, or low birthweight (and/or in the NICU or Special Care Nursery).
- Infants who had a first newborn screen with abnormal values and/or the specimen was unsuitable in quality.
- Infants who have clinical concerns related to a condition detected via newborn screening
- Infants who had a first newborn screen collected prior to 18 hours of age

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- Infants who may not have had a first newborn screen collected (infants are eligible for screening up to six months of age).
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If a second screen is collected for an infant with normal results, should it be sent?

If a second newborn screening specimen is collected, please send it to the state laboratory. The state laboratory will analyze all specimens received. The screen will not be rejected. It is okay to delay collecting routine second screens until after the COVID-19 situation resolves.

Does this change affect the collection of first newborn screens?

No, the collection of the first newborn screens continues to be a mandated and essential service. Please continue to collect and send newborn screening specimens for infants in your care. Remind families that leaving their house for health care services, such as birth and well child visits, is allowed by the Governor's Stay Home order.

How do I find out if an infant needs a second screen or not?

Newborn screening results are always sent to the submitter of the specimen. To obtain a copy of the first newborn screening results, contact the birth facility or birth attendant. Health care professionals can also access copies of newborn screening reports through [Secure Remote Viewer \(www.doh.wa.gov/nbs/srv\)](http://www.doh.wa.gov/nbs/srv). You can also call the Washington State Newborn Screening Program at 206-418-5410. To request a copy of the results, please fax 206-363-1610.



Questions? Contact Us!
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