

NEWBORN SCREENING NEWSLETTER MAY 19, 2015



Lab Operations during the Holiday

The Newborn Screening Laboratory will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 25.

Mercury Service will be running courier routes per usual on the Friday and Saturday before the holiday. Please have your newborn screening samples ready at your normal time of pick up. Do not hold samples over the long weekend.

Newborn screening samples will not be picked up by Mercury Service couriers on Monday, May 25. Courier service will resume as normal at 5:00 AM on Tuesday May 26th.

Please contact Mercury Service at 937-898-7300 if you have questions or need to make arrangements about your pick-up time.

Newborn Screening Timeliness

The importance of collecting and shipping newborn screening samples is being reviewed on both a state and national level. Please review your hospital policies for compliance with the following recommendations on sample collection and shipping.

Ohio Revised Code 3701-55-05 requires that newborn screening samples be collected:

- after twenty-four hours of age, but no later than when the child reaches five days of age. (Ideally collect the sample between 24 and 48 hours of age)
- before discharge if the baby leaves the hospital before 24 hours of age.
- before a red blood cell transfusion even if the baby is not yet 24 hours of age.
- for babies that are transported - the sample should be collected by the facility caring for the baby at twenty-four hours of age, and no later than when the child reaches five days of age.

Samples should be dried for at least 3 hours, lying flat, away from heat and sunlight

Dry samples should be placed in a labeled, manila envelope and picked up by Mercury Service within 24 hours of sample collection.

- Mercury Service will pick up envelopes every day but Sunday and major holidays (New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas).
- Samples drawn after the Saturday courier pick-up will need to be held by the hospital until Monday - these are the only samples that should be held for more than 24 hours.

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