

# NEWBORN SCREENING NEWSLETTER JUNE 26, 2015



## Lab Operations during the Holiday

The Newborn Screening Laboratory will be closed on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mercury Service will be running courier routes per usual during the week. On Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mercury will be picking up newborn screening samples at the hospitals using their Saturday schedule. Please have your newborn screening samples ready for pick-up on Friday at the time samples would normally be picked up on Saturday.

Newborn screening samples will not be picked up by Mercury Service couriers on Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. Courier service will resume as normal at 5:00 AM on Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>.

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 4<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas).
- Samples drawn after the Saturday courier pick-up will need to be held at room temperature by the hospital until Monday - these are the only samples that should be held for more than 24 hours.

Bureau of Public Health Laboratory  
8995 East Main St, Bldg 22, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068  
Phone: 1-888-ODH-LABS; 614-466-2278  
Email: [odhlabs@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:odhlabs@odh.ohio.gov)  
<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/phl/newbrn/nbrn1.aspx>