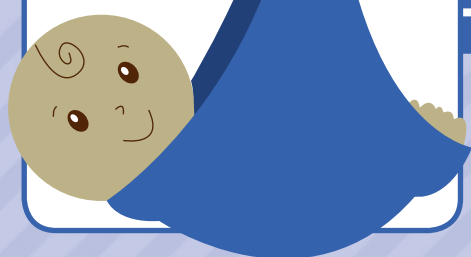


Newborn Screening

How does it work?




Baby is born!



12-48 hours
after birth



3 tests are done to check your baby's health:

-  Hearing screening
-  Heart screening
-  Blood spot screening

Blood spot screening

takes a few days. Your baby's dried blood spots are sent to the Minnesota Department of Health lab for testing.



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



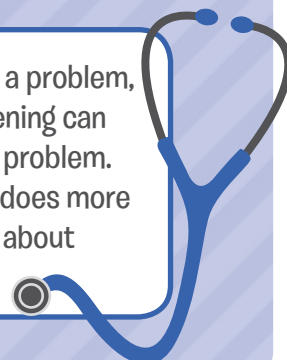
At the lab, blood spots are cut into smaller circles for each of the tests. Your baby is **tested for more than 50 health problems.**



Negative Results: If everything looks ok, the results are sent to your baby's doctor. Ask for your baby's results at the first newborn visit!



Positive Results: If there might be a problem, the lab will call your baby's doctor. Screening can only tell us if a baby might have a health problem. We won't know for sure until the doctor does more tests. Your baby's doctor will talk to you about what needs to happen next.



After Newborn Screening

What happens to leftover blood spots and results?

Parents can choose what happens with the leftover blood spots and results.



Each spot is smaller than the size of a dime.

Option A: The blood spots and results can go into safe storage at the Department of Health. This is what normally happens. **You do not have to do anything** to choose this option.

Option B: The blood spots and results can go into safe storage, and they also can be used for research to help improve the public's health. To choose this option, **you have to give permission by signing a consent form**. If you do not give permission, the blood spots and results will never be used for research.

Option C: You can ask the Department of Health to destroy the blood spots and results. To choose this option, **you have to fill out a destruction request form**. If you choose this option, blood spots will no longer be available for testing if you or your doctor needs them.

If you choose **Option A** or **Option B**, you can change your mind and choose a different option at any time. Just contact the Department of Health.



Ask your doctor, nurse, or midwife for the form you need for **Option B** or **Option C**. Or you can find forms on the website at the bottom of this page.

There are a few reasons why it is helpful to keep leftover blood spots and results at the Department of Health. These reasons include:

Testing Improvement: To make sure we find all babies who might have one of these health problems, we need to make sure that our tests and equipment are working the way they should. This process is called quality control or assurance.

Family Needs: Some families ask for them later to do testing if their child gets sick. Looking at blood spots can help give clues to whether something at birth made the child sick.

New Test Development:

We use them to help develop new tests so that babies with other health problems can be found and treated early too. All blood spots used to make new tests are de-identified, meaning the baby's name, date of birth, or any other identifying information is not attached to the blood spots.



Call us: 1-800-664-7772

Email us: health.newbornscreening@state.mn.us

Visit us: www.health.state.mn.us/newbornscreening

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