

Newborn Screening

How does it work?



Your 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

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.



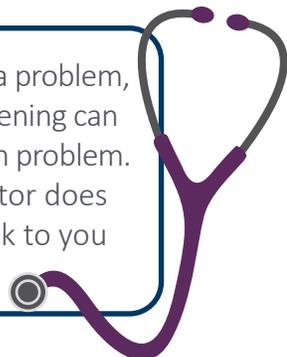
At the lab, blood spots are cut into smaller circles for each of the tests. Your baby is **tested for more than 60 health conditions.**



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: Storage

The leftover blood spots and results will be stored securely at the Minnesota Department of Health.

This is what **happens by default** if you do not choose **Option B** or **Option C**.

Option B: Storage + Research

You can opt-in to have your baby's leftover blood spots and de-identified data used in public health research.

To choose this option, you have to give permission by signing a consent form.

Option C: Destroy or Return

The left over blood spots and data can be destroyed after testing is complete or you can have them returned.

If you choose to destroy, the blood spots will no longer be available for testing if you or your doctor needs them.

If you choose **Option A: Storage** or **Option B: Storage + Research**, 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: Storage + Research** or **Option C: Destroy or Return**. The forms can be found online at www.health.state.mn.us/newbornscreening.

It is helpful to keep leftover blood spots and results at the Department of Health, for:

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 linked to the blood spots.



Want to know more?

Call us: 1-800-664-7772

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

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