



Newborn Screening Bulletin 2022-5

December 16, 2022

NEWBORN SCREENING OVER THE HOLIDAYS

With the holidays approaching, we would like to inform you of the courier schedule and provide you with some tips to ensure timely newborn screening. NSO will be working throughout the holiday period to ensure that testing is done quickly in spite of any courier delays. Please forward this bulletin to any members of your team who will be involved in newborn screening collection or shipping over the holidays.

Courier Downtimes:

- Purolator will only fulfil adhoc pickups that are requested before 1 p.m. on Friday, December 23rd and Friday, December 30th (hospitals with standing/pre-arranged pickups will continue to be fulfilled as usual).
- Purolator will NOT be operational during the following time periods:
 - Saturday, December 24th — Tuesday, December 27th inclusive
 - Saturday, December 31st — Monday, January 2nd inclusive

****Special Notice to Midwifery Practice Groups****

If requesting a pick up on Friday, December 23rd or Friday, December 30th please do so as early as possible and provide a wide window of time for the pick up.

If midwifery practice groups are not able to request a pickup on Friday, December 23 or Friday, December 30th, samples can still be shipped to NSO by dropping the shipment off at an authorized Purolator location. Please click [here](#) to find the most convenient drop-off location for you.

Tips to Ensure Timely Newborn Screening

To minimize potential delays caused by holiday downtimes, please do the following:

- Collect newborn screens between 24-48 hours of life. If an infant is discharged at <24 hours of age, please collect a newborn screen before discharge and ask the family to return in the next 24 hours for a repeat screen.
- Deliver samples to your shipping location (e.g. lab, unit clerk, practice office etc.) as soon as possible.
- Ship samples every business day, as soon as they are dry.
- If you are requesting a new pick up over the holiday period, a reminder to do so early in the day and to provide a wide window of time for Purolator to pick up your samples.
- Please closely review requisitions for completeness to reduce the likelihood a sample will be deemed unsatisfactory as a result of missing information. This is especially important for midwifery practice groups with offices that will be closed over the holiday period.

We wish you Happy Holidays and all the best for the New Year!

