



Newborn Screening Bulletin 2021-9

December 17, 2021

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 standing pre-arranged pick up requests on Friday, December 24th, and Friday, December 31st (i.e. pick ups at hospitals where this is pre-arranged).
- Purolator will NOT be operational during the following time periods:
 - Saturday, December 25th—Tuesday, December 28th
 - Saturday, January 1st—Monday, January 3rd

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

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

Midwifery practice groups will not be able to request new pick ups for Friday, December 24 or Friday, December 31st. 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 these 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 all requisitions for completeness to reduce the likelihood of unsatisfactory screens due to 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!

