



## Newborn Screening Bulletin 2020-2

March 19, 2020

### Newborn Screening and COVID-19

Newborn screening is considered an essential service and NSO will continue to operate throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. To protect the staff at NSO, many employees will be working remotely, resulting in a change to some of our workflows. Our recommendations are outlined below.

1. **Please continue to ship newborn screening dried blood spot (DBS) specimens and CCHD screening cards regularly.** There are no changes to NSO recommendations for the collection, drying or transport of newborn screening DBS, or any requirement for special labelling of DBS collected from babies of suspected/confirmed COVID-19 mothers. Purolator will continue to operate normally; we will let you know if this changes.
2. **Unsatisfactory sample and missed screen notifications will be faxed daily as per our regular procedure.**
3. **The contact information for your regular contacts at NSO remains the same.** If you cannot reach someone, please leave a voicemail so they can return your call.
4. **Only send urgent report requests via the NSO website.** For the foreseeable future, NSO will only fulfill urgent requests for newborn screening reports that are made online through the form found [here](#). Please do not send us non-urgent report requests, and discontinue sending requests by fax.

NSO will keep you informed if any recommendations change as the situation evolves. Likewise, please let us know if there are any changes in the status of operations at your site that may impact newborn screening.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Newborn Screening Ontario, especially during this uncertain time.

