

Information For Parents

When is newborn screening completed?

- For babies in the postpartum unit, all parts of newborn screening are completed once your baby is 24 hours old and before being discharged home from the hospital.
- For babies delivered outside of a hospital setting, your birth provider will either complete the testing or make arrangements for testing 1–2 days after your baby is born.
- Babies in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) may have different screening requirements and schedules.

What is my role as a parent?

- Before your baby is born, select their doctor.
- Schedule your baby's first visit with their doctor before you leave the birth facility.
- Make sure your birth facility and doctor have your correct address and phone number(s).
- Ask your baby's doctor about the screening results and go over them together.

How will I get the results?

- Your baby's doctor will have access to results.
- Pulse oximetry and hearing screening results will be available before your baby is discharged from the hospital.
- REMEMBER: Ask your baby's doctor about the screening results. Results may not be available at the first visit.

Why do some babies need to have a repeat screening or additional testing?

- There may have been a problem with the blood sample.
- The blood sample may have been collected prior to 24 hours of age.
- The screening may have shown a possible health issue with a result outside of the normal range.

Newborn screening is just that—a screening. You will be contacted if your baby needs to have additional testing or if a screening needs to be repeated.

Get a Smart Start for Your Newborn



FloridaNewbornScreening.com

Healthy Futures BEGIN WITH Newborn Screening

FloridaNewbornScreening.com

**For more information,
call the following toll-free numbers:**

866-804-9166 • 866-289-2037
NURSING **HEARING**

Florida HEALTH



What Is Newborn Screening?

When babies are born, a series of tests are performed to screen for health issues that could impact their lives and long-term well-being. These tests are called newborn screening, which is made up of three parts.



Blood Spot Screening

A small blood sample can detect more than 55 core and secondary health conditions.



Pulse Oximetry Screening

A sensor measures oxygen in the blood to screen for heart abnormalities.



Hearing Screening

Sensors measure response to sounds to detect possible hearing loss.

All babies are tested, because even those who look healthy could have an underlying issue. If these issues are found early, treatment can begin, and serious complications may be prevented.

What about my baby's eyes?

Just as infants are not born walking, talking, and eating solid food, a baby's vision system develops over time. Your baby's development and learning can be impacted if your baby is unable to see well. To learn more about screening for infant and childhood eye conditions, view "A Guide to Vision Health for Your Newborn" at FloridaNewbornScreening.com.



Blood Spot Screening

A few drops of blood taken from the baby's heel are collected on a special filter paper. The sample is sent to the Florida Department of Health's laboratory and results are sent to your baby's doctor within a few days.

What does this screen for?

The blood sample can detect more than 55 different conditions. This includes:

- **ENDOCRINE CONDITIONS**

Caused by too much or too little of certain hormones in the body. Treated with medication to prevent serious complications in development.

- **GENETIC CONDITIONS**

Caused by changes in a person's genetic structure that causes the body to work differently.

- **HEMOGLOBIN CONDITIONS**

Occurs when there is an issue in the way blood cells are formed.

- **METABOLIC CONDITIONS**

Affects the way the body uses different parts of food.

For a complete list of conditions, visit

FloridaNewbornScreening.com



Pulse Oximetry Screening

A small sensor placed on your baby's right hand and one of the feet measures oxygen levels in the blood.

What does this screen for?

Pulse oximetry screens for critical congenital heart defects that may be present at birth and makes it hard for the baby's body to get enough oxygen.



Hearing Screening

Two types of sensors are placed on your baby's head to measure response to sounds. The screening is painless and is usually completed while baby is sleeping.

What does this screen for?

Hearing screening may detect possible hearing loss, which can affect your baby's ability to learn language skills and may cause early learning delays.