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MAINE NEWBORN SCREENING PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR PARENTS – CORONAVIRUS

LEAVING THE HOSPITAL EARLY

Most babies are born healthy. However, some infants have a serious medical condition even though they look and act like all newborns. These babies generally come from families with no previous history of a condition. Newborn screening allows health professionals to identify and treat certain conditions before they make a baby sick. Most babies with these conditions who are identified at birth and treated early are able to grow up healthy with normal development. There are three parts to newborn screening. A [heel stick](#) to collect a small [blood sample](#), [pulse oximetry](#) to look at the amount of oxygen in the baby's blood which assesses heart function, and a hearing screen.

The blood test and critical congenital heart disease test are generally performed when a baby is 24 to 48 hours old. This timing is important because certain conditions may go undetected if these tests are done before 24 hours of age.

If you leave before 24 hours, you risk having to return to the hospital or a laboratory with your baby for a repeat blood draw within a week of going home. You also risk the baby failing the CCHD screening and needing to stay in the hospital for a repeat screen or additional test (echocardiogram), or an outpatient Cardiology clinic visit within a week with the baby. Leaving early comes with a risk of more exposure to the coronavirus.

OUT-OF-STATE PARENTS

Not all States screen for the same disorders. If you delivered your baby here in Maine but you live in another State, your baby did not have your State's newborn screening testing.

Baby's First Test (www.babysfirsttest.org) provides information about Newborn Screening in every State. If you are concerned about the difference between your State's Newborn Screening Program and the Maine Newborn Screening Program, please contact your baby's primary care provider/pediatrician or your State Newborn Screening Program.