



March 31, 2020

Dear Providers,

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) Newborn Screening Laboratory and Follow-Up Programs are providing guidance on transporting newborn screening specimens for COVID-19 exposed or positive infants. These specimens should be transported as they normally are without any change. For any infants who are COVID-19 exposed or positive, you may write “COVID-19 exposed” or “COVID-19 positive” at the top of the filter paper so we are aware when reporting out abnormal results. **Do not place these specimens in a poly bag for transport.** Allow the specimens to dry for at least 3 hours before packaging for transport as you normally would.

For more information on collecting, drying, and transporting newborn screening specimens to the State Laboratory, please review the TDH Newborn Screening websites.

<https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/lab/newborn-screening-laboratory.html>

<https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/newborn-screening/newborn-screening/newborn-genetic-screening.html>

Thank you for all you do for the families in Tennessee.