



Newborn Screening Bulletin 2025-11

December 18, 2025

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. 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 over the holiday period:

- Purolator will NOT be operational during the following time periods:
 - Thursday, December 25th and Friday, December 26th
 - Thursday, January 1st
- Purolator will be providing a reduced pick-up service on Wednesday, December 24th and Wednesday, December 31st, with **no ad hoc pick-ups after 12pm**. Regular account pickups will remain in place.

Tips to ensure timely newborn screening:

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

If requesting a pick up on Wednesday, December 24th and Wednesday, December 31st please do so **as early as possible** in the day and provide a wide window of time that **does not extend past 12:00pm**.

If midwifery practice groups are not able to request a pickup on either of these dates, samples can still be shipped to NSO by dropping the shipment off at an [authorized Purolator location](#).

NSO will be working throughout the holiday period to ensure testing is done quickly despite any courier delays. To minimize potential delays caused by 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** (and Saturdays if eligible for Saturday pick up) as soon as they are dry.
- If you are requesting a new pick up over the holiday period, please do so early in the day and provide a wide window of time for Purolator to pick up your samples.
- Closely review requisitions for completeness to reduce the likelihood a sample will be deemed unsatisfactory as a result of 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!