

## Newborn Screening Bulletin 2024-8

December 12, 2024

### Newborn screening over the holidays and upcoming changes

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:
  - Wednesday, December 25th and Thursday, December 26th
  - Wednesday, January 1st
- Purolator will be providing a reduced pick-up service on Tuesday, December 24th and Tuesday, December 31st, with no ad hoc pick-ups after 12pm

#### Tips to ensure timely newborn screening:

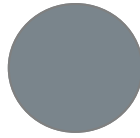
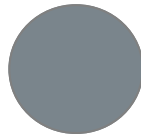
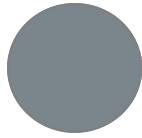
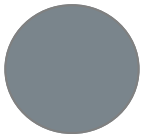
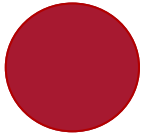
##### **\*\*Special Notice to Midwifery Practice Groups\*\***

If requesting a pick up on Tuesday, December 24th and Tuesday, 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 Tuesday, December 24th and Tuesday, December 31st, samples can still be shipped to NSO by dropping the shipment off at an authorized Purolator location. Please click [here](#) to find the most convenient drop-off location for you.

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, a reminder to do so early in the day and to provide a wide window of time for Purolator to pick up your samples.
- Please 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.



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### Biliary atresia (BA) screening reminders:

Please ensure that every family receives an Infant Stool Colour Card (ISCC) to facilitate BA screening, the provincial standard of care. The ISCCs can be ordered through the same VWR account as the dried blood spot cards, and are provided at no cost to your organization. To avoid any shortages during the holiday season, please confirm that your supply is well-stocked. Thank you for your collaboration in ensuring every family has the opportunity to screen their baby for BA.

**We wish you Happy Holidays and all the best for the New Year!**