

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

HINTS TO MINIMIZE TRANSIT TIME OF NEWBORN SCREENING SPECIMENS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

NOTICE FROM THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES NEWBORN SCREENING LABORATORY

- Be aware of any courier and postal service closures.
- Communicate holiday shipping deadline to all departments.
- Collect all Newborn Screening specimens at least 4-5 hours before scheduled shipment to ensure all specimens are dry.
- Assign a Newborn Screening Coordinator (and backup) to:
 - a. Gather specimens from all areas 1 hour before scheduled shipment.
 - b. Check specimen quality and accuracy / legibility of demographic information.
 - c. Account for all newborn screening orders.
- Create a log to document all specimens being shipped.
- If a specimen is collected on the holiday, ensure it is sent as soon as courier and postal service resume.

Quick Links to Holiday Schedules

Lone Star Delivery and Process (LSDP)	LSDP Holiday Schedule
United States Post Office (USPS)	USPS Holiday Schedule
FedEx	FedEx Holiday Schedule
Lone Star Overnight (LSO)	LSO Holiday Schedule

*Questions? Contact the Texas DSHS Newborn Screening Laboratory:
Call toll free: 1-888-963-7111 ext. 7585 or for local calls 512-776-7585
Email: NewbornScreeningLab@dshs.state.tx.us*