



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
State Laboratory of Public Health

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Scott J. Zimmerman, DrPH, MPH, HCLD (ABB)
Laboratory Director

To: Hospitals and Birthing Centers

From: Scott J. Zimmerman, DrPH, MPH, HCLD (ABB)
Shu H. Chaing, Ph.D., Manager, Newborn Screening

Date: January 25, 2016

Re: Extended Laboratory Schedule for Newborn Screening Specimen Receipt

Beginning Saturday, February 6, 2016, the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) will begin receipt and accessioning of newborn screening (NBS) dried blood spot (DBS) specimens on Saturdays. This expanded schedule will provide all submitters of NBS specimens from hospitals and birthing centers with the ability to ship NBS specimens for Saturday receipt. The Saturday specimen receipt and processing of NBS specimens will reduce the time between DBS collection and reporting of results and enable NCSLPH and its partners to more closely comply with the US DHHS Secretary's Advisory Committee for Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children's recommendations for timeliness.

In preparation, submitters should develop plans so that their NBS specimens are delivered to the NCSLPH six days a week, Monday through Saturday. *Hospitals should notify their shipping departments/mailrooms, materials management departments and overnight carriers that Saturday delivery is now required and make adjustments in their shipping schedules and pick-up times.* This includes birthing facilities that use their own courier service or a contracted service. Specimens should not be held for later delivery if they are ready to ship on Friday for Saturday morning deliveries. Please be reminded that specimens should dry 3-4 hours prior to mailing and not placed undried or in a biohazard bag for transport.

The NCSLPH will be open to accept Saturday deliveries from 9:30 am to 11:00 am. All deliveries should be made to the designated Shipping/Receiving location at the rear of the building. Staff on site will accept deliveries.

Note that specimen delivery on Saturdays is for NBS specimens only. If you should have questions concerning this expanded workweek for newborn screening contact Ann Grush @ (919) 807-8881. We thank you for your cooperation in expediting your newborn screenings samples to reduce transit time and allow for earlier accessioning.

