

NEWBORN SCREENING

Reminders for Home Births

- ♥ Timely newborn screening can be the difference between life and death for some newborns. The optimal time for collection of the newborn blood spot screen is between 24 and 48 hours of age; it is no longer based on feeding time.
- ♥ Remember to review the [newborn blood spot screening brochure](#) with the parent (s), include information on blood spot and hearing screenings.
- ♥ Fill out the blood spot screening form completely and accurately. Incomplete forms will cause a delay in results. Additional forms can be ordered at: <https://doh.sd.gov/family/newborn/Screening/blood-spot/providers/Order.aspx>
- ♥ All babies born in South Dakota are required by law to have a newborn blood spot screening. Please see our website for information and refusal forms: <https://doh.sd.gov/family/newborn/Screening/blood-spot/providers/>
- ♥ A hearing screening is the best way to check a baby's hearing. Undetected hearing loss can have a long-term impact on learning and language. Parent (s) cannot be sure their baby is able to hear all sounds. A baby with hearing loss may jump or startle to loud noises, but miss other sounds or speech.
- ♥ Educational trainings, materials, and technical assistance are available through the South Dakota Department of Health, Newborn Screening Program.

