



Newborn Hearing Screening COVID-19 Update for Nebraska Hospitals/Birthing Facilities

First, I would like to extend a deep and sincere thank you for all the incredible work that everyone does to ensure all babies have a newborn hearing screen prior to hospital discharge. We know you are doing everything you can to provide newborn hearing screens during these challenging times.

At this time, there have been no official Federal or State changes to the newborn hearing screening guidelines prior to hospital discharge. However, we understand procedures are changing daily in hospitals/birthing facilities due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We recommend that you continue to conduct the hearing screen for babies prior to hospital discharge if at all possible since outpatient testing will be challenging as long as the COVID-19 Pandemic continues. We will continue to monitor the situation and will follow guidance from our Federal partners and other collaborative partners on how to proceed with challenges for newborn hearing screening and diagnostic follow-up given the current COVID-19 issue.

IMPORTANT:

Please continue to report the status of the newborn hearing screen the same way you currently are reporting for every baby born in your facility to NE-EHDI.

We also recommend that you continue to schedule outpatient appointments for babies who are not screened prior to discharge and for babies who do not pass the hospital inpatient hearing screen if possible. Please work with outpatient providers to determine how far out to schedule appointments.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us at DHHS.NEEHDI@nebraska.gov.

Kindly,

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