How and when will I get the results of the tests?

The results from hearing and heart tests are available right away, but blood test results can take a few days. You will receive the results from the hospital, your baby's health care provider, or midwife. It's important that the hospital and your baby's health care provider have your address and phone number so they can contact you about test results.

What if my baby needs another test?

Your baby's health care provider or the Newborn Screening Program will contact you if your baby needs another test. They will tell you why your baby needs another test and what to do next.

It is important to follow the health care provider's instructions and take your baby to get any additional tests that are needed.

Questions?

CALL

Vermont Newborn Screening Program 800-660-4427 or **802-951-5180**

VISIT

HealthVermont.gov/Family/NewbornScreening

Revised August 2025

Vermont Newborn Screening Program

VERMONT
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

All babies born in Vermont receive newborn screening, unless the parents choose not to have their baby screened. Newborn screening is a service that tests babies for a number of serious health problems right after they are born.

What is newborn screening?

There are three parts to newborn screening:

1. A blood test that checks the baby's blood for rare conditions.

   Visit HealthVermont.gov/Family/NewbornScreening for a list of the conditions.

2. A test to check the baby's hearing.
3. A test for critical congenital heart disease (CCHD).

Why does my baby need newborn screening tests?

Newborn screening helps find any rare health problems early so that babies can get the treatment and care they need.

We recommend that all babies get newborn screening tests, but parents or guardians who do not want screening can decline by signing a form. A health care provider should explain the risk of not having the tests before the form is signed.

When will my baby be screened?

Newborn screening is typically done within **24-48 hours after a baby is born**.

Most babies only need newborn screening once, but sometimes the baby may need to get screening done again. This may happen:

- If the test is done before your baby is 24 hours old.
- If there was a problem with the way the test was done.
- If the results of the first test showed a possible health problem.

How will my baby be screened?

- The screening tests will be done by a health care provider at the hospital where your baby is born or can be done by a licensed midwife if your baby is born at home.
- The health care provider will take a small amount of blood from your baby's heel and send it to a laboratory for testing.
- Blood samples are stored at the laboratory for a short period of time and then destroyed. The sample can be retrieved or destroyed sooner by sending a written request to the Vermont Newborn Screening Program.
- Screening also includes checking your baby's hearing and heart. This part of screening doesn't require a blood test.