

## Talking points:

**Current Missouri NBS Law:** Missouri statute RSMo 191.331 states, *“Every infant who is born in this state shall be tested for phenylketonuria and such other metabolic or genetic diseases as are prescribed by the department”*. Parents may refuse screening if they state in writing that it conflicts with their religious tenets and practices.

NBS is Collected at 24 - 48 Hours-of-Age



The sample must air-dry for 3 to 4 hours



**The Newborn Screening Unit of the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory:** Receives an average of 350 dried blood spot specimens per working day. Each specimen contains five circles of dried blood from each newborn from which the NBS laboratory punches smaller test samples to be utilized for eight different testing methods. The eight testing methods cover ten different testing categories which screen for a total of **71 disorders**. Over 6 million analytes are evaluated, measured and recorded each year by the Newborn Screening Unit.

## Why Screen Newborns?

- The affected babies typically look healthy and normal at birth.
- The disorders must be detected promptly after birth to prevent brain damage, physical disability or death.
- The disorders are rare so detecting without screening is difficult and can result in a long, expensive and disastrous diagnostic odyssey for the family and their physician.
- The NBS system works extremely well and is one of the nation’s greatest public health success stories.
- NBS is highly cost effective and saves the State of Missouri millions of dollars each year.
- NBS is a law in every state.
- NBS saves babies’ lives! A Missouri newborn’s life is saved every other day through NBS.

**What Qualifies as a Disorder for Newborn Screening? Most of the following are necessary:**

- Requires detection and treatment in the newborn period to prevent illness, injury or death.
- Has an available screening test that works well on dried bloodspots.
- Has an available treatment that greatly improves the prospect for the child.
- Is mandated by Missouri state law to be screened.
- Is recommended by the Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary's Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborns and Children (SACHDNC).
- Is selected for screening by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services