

**West Virginia  
Department of Health & Human Resources**

**Bureau for Public Health**

**Office of Maternal, Child & Family Health**

**Division of Research, Evaluation & Planning**

**Newborn Screening Program**

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[www.wvdhhr.org/nbms/](http://www.wvdhhr.org/nbms/)



These Tests Could  
**Save** Your Baby's  
**Life!**

**West Virginia  
Newborn Screening Program**



## Why does my baby need newborn screening tests?

- ◆ By law, babies born in West Virginia hospitals or birthing facilities are tested at birth.
- ◆ Finding problems early can help prevent serious problems like mental retardation or death.

## How is my baby tested?

- ◆ Before the baby leaves the hospital, a few drops of blood will be taken from the baby's heel.
- ◆ The hospital sends the blood samples to the State Laboratory.

## How will I get the results of the test?

- ◆ Parents are notified of test results by the baby's doctor if there is a problem.

## Why do some babies need retested?

- ◆ Some babies need retested because there is a problem with the blood sample.
- ◆ A few babies need retested because the first test showed a possible health problem.
- ◆ Some babies leave the hospital shortly after birth and may need retested.

## What if my baby needs retested?

- ◆ Your baby's doctor or the State Health Department will contact you if your baby needs retested. They will tell you why and what to do next.
- ◆ If your baby needs retested, get it done **right away**.
- ◆ Make sure the hospital, your doctor and the baby's doctor have your correct address and phone number.

## What tests are done?

- ◆ West Virginia screens for 29 newborn disorders including hearing loss. It is important to identify babies with hearing loss as soon as possible, so that learning is not delayed.

## What if I have questions?

- ◆ Ask your baby's doctor if you have questions.
- ◆ For additional information about newborn screening or to find a current list of all disorders that are screened in West Virginia, go to [www.wvdhhr.org/nbms/](http://www.wvdhhr.org/nbms/).

