



## Genomics & Newborn Screening (GNBS) Newsletter

*Hello Newborn Care Teams,*

### January is National Birth Defects Prevention Month!

Birth defects are the second leading cause of infant mortality in Indiana. This January is all about spreading awareness about birth defects and how to prevent them!

The **National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN)** has put together the **2020 Digital Toolkit** to help spread the word about birth defects to both patients and medical providers alike.

Some helpful topics for opening a dialogue about birth defect prevention with patient include the following:

- ◇ Consume 400mcg of **folic acid**, in diet or by supplement, every day
- ◇ Reach a **healthy weight** prior to pregnancy
- ◇ Be up-to-date with **vaccinations**, including the **flu shot**
- ◇ **Avoid harmful substances** such as alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, prescription opioids, and other drugs



It is up to you and your fellow staff of healthcare professionals to ensure your patients are aware of how to reduce the risk of their baby developing a birth defect. This means ensuring patients not only stay healthy *during pregnancy*, but also maintain healthy habits *prior to becoming pregnant*.

**Let's make birth defects prevention a priority!** Reducing birth defects means reducing the number of babies who won't live to see their first birthdays.

The **NBDPN 2020 Digital Toolkit** is available online now! Visit [www.birthdefects.IN.gov](http://www.birthdefects.IN.gov) to access the toolkit, as well as other multilingual resources!



### Contact GNBS!

[ISDHNBS@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:ISDHNBS@isdh.IN.gov)

[IBDPR@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:IBDPR@isdh.IN.gov)

Phone: 888.815.0006

Fax: 317.234.2995

### EHDI Team

Phone: 855.875.5193

Fax: 317.925.2888

*Visit the GNBS website  
for updated forms  
and other resources!*

[www.nbs.IN.gov](http://www.nbs.IN.gov)



Indiana State  
Department of Health

## Birthing Facility Outreach Initiative continues in 2020!

We are excited to announce the commencement of the GNBS Birthing Facility Outreach (BFO) initiative! Throughout 2020, ISDH GNBS Education Specialist Ali Hendrick will be traveling to each and every Indiana birthing facility and birth center to educate staff about newborn screening protocols and spread awareness about the importance of reporting to the IBDPR.

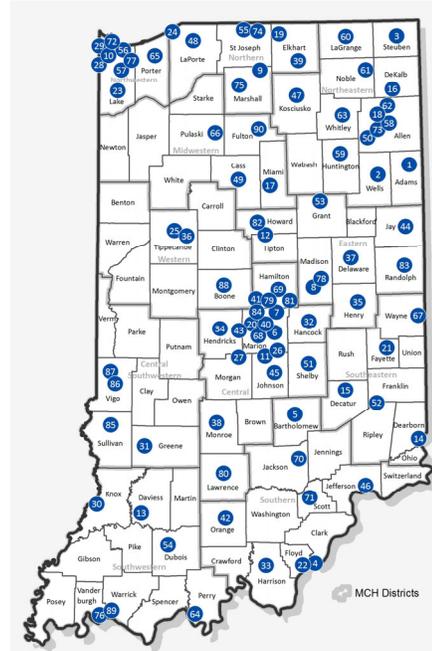
### How can your facility prepare?

Please ensure that all staff who take part in any part of the newborn screening process at your facility are able to attend the BFO site visit. It is important we reach as many newborn screening stakeholders as possible!

### What happens after the Birthing Facility Outreach site visit?

Shortly after each site visit, every staff member who attended will receive an email link to an online survey. All staff members who attended the site visit are asked to complete the survey. The responses will help guide how ISDH continues to develop the BFO initiative.

*If you have any questions about the BFO or other educational outreach opportunities, please email to Ali Hendrick at [AHendrick@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:AHendrick@isdh.IN.gov).*



## Would you like newborn screening result access at the click of your mouse?

Signing up for access to newborn screening results online is quick and easy! Simply email your request to [ISDHNBS@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:ISDHNBS@isdh.IN.gov) and include the following information:

1. Your full name (as it appears on any license)
2. Name of your affiliated medical facility
3. Names of the physicians practicing within the facility
4. Main phone number at the facility
5. Your role at the facility
6. The reason your are requesting access to INSTEP

