



## Genomics & Newborn Screening (GNBS) Newsletter

*Hello Newborn Care Teams,*

You are doing amazing work, and we appreciate it!



**Close contact and early, exclusive breastfeeding helps a baby to thrive.**

A woman with COVID-19 should be supported to breastfeed safely, hold her newborn skin-to-skin, and share a room with her baby.



#COVID19 #CORONAVIRUS

### GNBS and COVID-19

We are aware this pandemic is taking a toll on you and your families. During this time we would like to ensure you that we are here to support you and your NBS efforts. You are not alone in this battle against COVID-19.

### What is the GNBS program doing?

The entire process is still occurring. This includes screening, confirmatory testing and follow-up for all conditions. Early detection and intervention remains our utmost priority during this time.

### Are monthly summary reports still required?

Yes. Please complete these accurately and submit them as timely as possible. For support with

MSRs, visit [our reporting page](#) or contact the Follow-up Care Coordinator, Eric Jackson at 317-954-4564 or [EJackson2@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:EJackson2@isdh.IN.gov).

### How can we reassure families during this time?

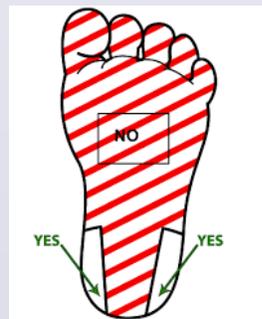
Provide comfort and reassurance to families throughout the newborn screening process. Reducing fear and increasing comfort for families is essential. The following heel stick collection procedure tips will also reduce the need for unnecessary rescreens:

- Do not touch the filter paper collection site with heel, hands or capillary tubes.
- Saturate circles entirely.
- Fill out the required NBS card fields completely prior to sending out.

### Is onsite outreach still available?

At this time, onsite visits are postponed until further notice. Online training materials are being developed for stakeholders to access .

In the meantime, feel free to reach out to our Education Specialist, Ali Hendrick, for your training needs by contacting her at 317-503-8726 or [AHendrick@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:AHendrick@isdh.IN.gov).



## Contact GNBS!

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

Phone: 888-815-0006

Fax: 317-234-2995

Birth Defects and  
Problems Registry

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

Early Hearing  
Detection and  
Intervention (EHDI)

Fax: 317-925-2888

Visit our website for  
educational materials  
and resources at

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

and

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



Indiana State  
Department of Health

## Lysosomal Storage Disorders Added to NBS Panel July 1st

Screening will begin July 1, 2020 for Pompe disease, Krabbe disease and Hurler syndrome. With these additions to our NBS panel, we will then screen for over 50 conditions! We hope you will help us share this great news with Hoosier families and other healthcare providers. We encourage you and your colleagues to learn more about the conditions we screen for by visiting this [webpage](#).

## Spring Awareness Efforts

On March 3 the ISDH recognized World Birth Defects Day. Birth defects, or congenital anomalies, are structural or functional abnormalities due to changes during intrauterine development. They can be identified prenatally, at birth, or sometimes may only be detected later in infancy. Learn more about birth defects [here!](#)

April is Autism Awareness Month! Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a complex developmental disability. Typically, signs of ASD appear during early childhood and affects the ability to communicate and interact with others. ASD is diagnosed by an identified set of behaviors and is a “spectrum condition” that affects everyone differently and to varying degrees. Autism affects every race, gender, creed, and socio-economic background. Learn more [here!](#)

May holds Cystic Fibrosis Awareness! Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is a condition that most commonly causes frequent respiratory infections and digestive problems. Babies with CF may have trouble gaining weight and may have extra salt in their sweat. They also have thick mucus in their lungs, which is more difficult to cough up. Learn more [here!](#)



GNBS Team left to right: Ali Hendrick, Allison Forkner, Jennifer Haller, Eric Jackson

**Community Birth Partners:** The NBS Lab now has a drop box!

**NBS Drop Box** is for community birth partners to drop off newborn screens in a timely and efficient manner.

**Location:** 351 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street Indianapolis, IN 46202. Just inside the first set of doors is a locked box labeled “Newborn Screens.”

**Action:** Email NBS Lab Manager ([BGLesko@iupui.edu](mailto:BGLesko@iupui.edu)) upon drop off for timely processing.

