

# NEWBORN SCREENING Fact Sheet



Cook County DEPT. of  
Public Health

**BUILDING  
HEALTHIER  
COMMUNITIES**

**40**  
DISORDERS

Newborns in IL are  
screened for more  
than 40 disorders.



*Making sure newborn babies are screened for health or genetic disorders within the **first 48 hours** of their lives could make a difference in the quality and the longevity of their lives.*

## **Newborn Screening Is Important**

Newborn screening can help detect if babies could be at risk for a disease, intellectual and physical disabilities and even death. Early detection, diagnosis and treatment of health disorders could prevent disabilities or death.

## **Three Components of Newborn Screening**

- Blood spot screening (heel prick)
- Hearing screening
- Pulse oximetry (for critical congenital heart disease)

## **When Newborn Screening Occurs**

Newborn screening is typically performed when a newborn is 24 to 48 hours old and prior to being discharged from a hospital or birthing center. If an abnormal screen is detected, parents will be notified immediately to get follow-up testing.

## **Newborns in Illinois are screened for more than 40 disorders:**

- |                                     |                                  |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • amino and urea cycle disorders    | • cystic fibrosis                | • organic acid disorders            |
| • biotinidase deficiency            | • fatty acid oxidation disorders | • phenylketonuria                   |
| • congenital adrenal hyperplasia    | • galactosemia                   | • severe combined immune deficiency |
| • congenital hypothyroidism         | • hearing loss                   | • sickle cell disease               |
| • critical congenital heart disease | • lysosomal storage disorders    | • spinal muscular atrophy           |

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [KNOWYOURGENETICS.ORG](https://www.knowyourgenetics.org) OR EMAIL [HEALTHYCOOK@COOKCOUNTYHHS.ORG](mailto:HEALTHYCOOK@COOKCOUNTYHHS.ORG).