

# MLS Laboratory Update: Newborn Screening Specimens – Possible UPS Strike

JULY 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2023

## Purpose of this Message:

To inform laboratories using UPS to ship newborn screening specimen cards about steps they can take to help MDH continue to receive newborn screening (NBS) specimens in a timely manner if a strike takes place on August 1, 2023.

## Action Item:

Read message and share with colleagues.

## Additional Information:

With the possibility of a UPS strike beginning on August 1, 2023, we are working with UPS to ensure that we can continue to receive newborn screening specimens from our submitters in a timely manner. UPS has assured us they have a plan in place and service will continue as usual, though it may be a little slower.

For those of you that use UPS to send MDH your specimens, there are some things you can do:

- Order UPS Medical Envelopes (item number 010196122), which may facilitate more timely transport to the MDH Public Health Laboratory.
- Diligently track which baby's specimen card goes with each UPS tracking number.
- Request email notifications of when the envelope is picked up from your location and again when they are delivered to the MDH Public Health Laboratory.
  - This can be found in section 4 when setting up your shipping label.
- If you are shipping specimens on a Friday, please be sure that the "Deliver on Saturday" box is checked.
- Your timeliness when collecting specimens will be very important, please remember to collect specimens between 24-48 hours after birth. There are some exceptions; you can call MDH NBS genetic counselors at 651-201-3548 with any collection questions.
- Multiple newborn screening specimens may be sent together; however, a shipment should never be delayed or "batched" to wait for additional specimens.
- Additionally, newborn screening specimens should never be placed in the same container as other specimen types traveling to the Public Health Laboratory.

In the event of a UPS strike, please make sure this message is shared with all who submit newborn screening specimens. UPS and the Teamsters Union have until July 31, 2023 to come to an agreement and avert a strike. If you or your staff have questions or concerns about

specimen shipping, you can email us at [Health.NewbornScreening@state.mn.us](mailto:Health.NewbornScreening@state.mn.us) or call our general line at 651-201-5466 or toll-free at 800-664-7772.

**Questions:** Please contact: [Health.NewbornScreening@state.mn.us](mailto:Health.NewbornScreening@state.mn.us) or call our general line at 651-201-5466 or toll-free at 800-664-7772.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

MDH Newborn Screening Team.

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*\*\*PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO ALL APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL WITHIN YOUR INSTITUTION AND HEALTH SYSTEM\*\**

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*To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5200.*