



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health

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Division of Public Health

DEE PETTIT, PhD, HCLD (ABB) • Acting Laboratory Director, State
Laboratory of Public Health

Memo

To: Birthing Hospitals, Birthing Centers, Midwives

From: Radish Persaud, Acting Manager Newborn Screening Laboratory

CC: Dee Pettit PhD, HCLD (ABB) Acting Lab Director, State Lab of Public Health

Date: September 4, 2019

Re: DBS Storage Recommendation

SLPH Current Status: Normal Operations

The North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) requests notification from Submitters of inability to collect or transport specimens due to Hurricane Dorian activity. Please notify Radish Persaud at radish.persaud@dhhs.nc.gov or 919-807-8829.

Please be advised if weather conditions, due to Hurricane Dorian, do not permit transport of DBS within 24-48 hours of collection, DBS specimens should be stored in low humidity conditions (sealed plastic baggie with silica gel pack) at lower temperatures (in a refrigerator at 4°C or in a freezer at -20 °C), if possible. This handling improves specimen quality for enzyme-based tests and acylcarnitine analyses. Please be mindful that specimens received 14 or more days after collection will be too old to test and marked unsatisfactory.

If the NCSLPH leadership determines it is not possible to continue Normal Operations and changes the Current Status to Emergency Operations a new Memo will follow.

You can continue to contact the Newborn Screening program at 919-733-3937.

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LOCATION: 4312 District Drive, Raleigh, NC 27607

MAILING ADDRESS: 1918 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1918

www.ncdhhs.gov • <http://publichealth.nc.gov> • slph.ncpublichealth.com • TEL: 919-733-7834 • FAX: 919-733-8695

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