

Newborn Hearing Screening Information for Home Births

Newborn Hearing Screening Information for Home Births/ Babies born at home

Hearing and communication are very important for your baby's development. Babies who are born at home are not required to have a newborn hearing screening. However, it is very important to consider having a hearing screening done on your baby.

Hearing loss is common in babies and newborns and is hard to identify. Hearing loss is invisible and hearing loss signs can often be missed until the baby is older. Some signs of hearing loss may be speech and language delay, behavior problems, and/or developmental delays.

Why is newborn hearing screening important for my baby?

Performing a hearing screening shortly after a baby is born is a quick and simple way to identify risk for hearing loss. A hearing screening should be done soon after the baby is born and can be done on a sleeping or quiet baby.

Where can I take my baby for a newborn hearing screening?

Your local health department will offer you a list of locations that can do the newborn hearing screening. This list is called the Pediatric Audiology Providers for outpatient hearing screening.

How do I schedule an appointment for the newborn hearing screening?

Look at the directory of Pediatric Audiology Providers to find a location by county for the outpatient screening section. Once you find the location(s), you can call the number listed to schedule an appointment for the newborn hearing screening.

There is also a listing of insurances taken by each site.



What if my baby did not pass the hearing screening and needs more testing?

After your baby has the newborn hearing screening, the audiologist will share the results with you and give you some important information on your baby's growth. If your baby does not pass the hearing screening, more testing will be needed. This is called a diagnostic hearing evaluation.

The diagnostic hearing evaluation should happen as soon as possible. It is best to have babies tested younger than 3 months of age. Babies who are younger than 3 months of age are able to sleep through the testing. Babies who are 3 months or older may need to be sedated with special medication to stay asleep for the testing.

Sometimes, the same screening location can do the diagnostic hearing evaluation. If the location cannot do the diagnostic hearing evaluation, the audiologist will give you a list of locations in the directory of Pediatric Audiology Services for diagnostic a site or help make the appointment for the diagnostic hearing evaluation.

What if my baby has hearing loss?

If hearing loss is found, the audiologist may send your baby to an ear, nose and throat doctor. Your baby will also be referred to the Ohio Early Intervention program that can help support your family to enhance your child's learning and development through everyday routines.

Who should I call if I have more questions?

The Ohio Department of Health — Infant Hearing Program can answer questions about the hearing screening, diagnostic hearing evaluation, or other information.

Contact the Ohio Department of Health-Infant Hearing Program:

- Infant Hearing Screening Assistance: 614-387-0135
- Infant Hearing Diagnostic Evaluation Assistance: 614-728-4676
- E-mail: infanthearingprogram@odh.ohio.gov.
- Website: <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/infant-hearing-program/homebirths>.



Cytomegalovirus (CMV) and your infant's hearing.

If your baby did not pass the Newborn Hearing Screening, you should discuss CMV testing with your baby's doctor in the hospital, or with the baby's pediatrician during your one-week well-baby check.

The medical community recommends that CMV testing be done in the first 21 days after birth.

CMV can be diagnosed by testing an infant's saliva or urine. Babies who are diagnosed with CMV could also develop late-onset hearing loss, so ongoing diagnostic hearing evaluations are recommended.

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