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Director of Nursing
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The North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH), in partnership with birthing facilities such as yours across our state, is working steadily towards more timely transport of newborn screening specimens. In collaboration with United Parcel Service (UPS), your newborn screening specimens are picked up Monday through Saturday, with delivery six days a week at NCSLPH. This cooperation between public health partners strives to decrease the time between birth and results availability, essential for prompt reporting and follow-up of results that need immediate action.

During the upcoming months of holidays, it is vitally important that your daily vigilance to collection and timely transport of newborn screening specimens remain a high priority. NCSLPH will be implementing a newborn screening specimen receipt and testing plan during these upcoming holidays. We wish to share with you our strategic planning for the upcoming holidays:

- November 10, Veteran's Day: newborn screening will be operational
- November 24 & 25, Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving Day: newborn screening will be operational
- December 23 (Saturday), December 26 and 27 (Tuesday and Wednesday following Christmas Day): newborn screening will be operational
- December 30, Saturday: newborn screening will be operational
- January 13 (Saturday) and 15 (Monday): newborn screening will be operational

It is crucial that your facility provide education to all staff on the importance of newborn screening transport, especially during the upcoming holiday times, so that the laboratory can continue to provide timely accessioning and testing of your specimens. Your diligence is a necessary part of the timeliness of the newborn screening program.

Thank you in advance for your early attention to this matter. If you should have questions concerning newborn screening operations during the holidays, please contact Ann Grush at the NCSLPH, (919) 807-8881.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott J. Zimmerman".

Scott J. Zimmerman, DrPH, MPH, HCLD (ABB)
Laboratory Director

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