

ANTENATAL AND NEWBORN SCREENING PROGRAMMES ARE CONSIDERED HIGH PRIORITY AND WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE ACROSS ALL COVID-19 ALERT LEVELS. HOWEVER, THERE MAY BE IMPORTANT CHANGES IN HOW SERVICES ARE DELIVERED AT EACH ALERT LEVEL TO MINIMISE RISK.

ANTENATAL SCREENING FOR DOWN SYNDROME AND OTHER CONDITIONS

National Alert Level	1	1st trimester maternal serum and ultrasound (anatomy) provided as standard maternal care across all alert levels Referral to specialist and diagnostic testing for women with high risk result who consent to referral (provision of risk result and for high risk results, consent and referral) is provided as standard care
	2	Specialist consult provided as standard care Diagnostic testing (amnio or CVS) will be provided by DHBs as standard care across all alert levels
	3	Changes to availability of anatomy and/or nuchal translucency scanning services may be implemented at some radiology practices Reduced appointment time for the first trimester anatomy scan may be implemented. There may be no recall for a second attempt if scan cannot be completed Women or their LMCs are encouraged to contact radiology practices to check whether ultrasound services are available and any requirements they have in place for appointments If scan is not completed, referral for MSS2 is recommended. Offer and referral of MSS2 can be made electronically where appropriate
	4	Referral to specialist and diagnostic testing for women with high risk result who consent to referral (provision of risk result and for high risk results, consent and referral may be completed electronically or face-to-face at the discretion of the LMC for Alert Levels 3 and 4) Specialist consult may be provided via telephone or video if appropriate

NEWBORN METABOLIC SCREENING

National Alert Level	1	Blood spot can be taken from 24 hours post birth by midwife or hospital phlebotomist if this better fits schedule of visits (optimal time for sample taking is 48 - 72 hours) Recollections completed as per standard care Samples dispatched to LabPlus consistent with existing arrangements
	2	Second sample completed as required by LabPlus for diagnostic testing as per existing arrangements Referral to specialist and treatment/intervention initiated
	3	Recollections completed in consultation with LabPlus
	4	Some disruption to services may be experienced. Note that if a Post Shop is closed, providers can call the courier company for a pickup or to drop off samples at their local maternity facility Please advise the laboratory of any issues regarding collection or delivery of samples as soon as you become aware of an issue

If results have not been received within 10 days of a child's birth midwives should check that the lab has the sample using the courier track number and call 0800 LABLINK to enquire about sample/result

NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING AND DIAGNOSTIC AUDIOLOGY

National Alert Level	1	Newborn hearing screening and diagnostic audiology provided as per standard care with inpatient and outpatient clinic appointments available Newborn hearing screening outpatient appointments may be prioritised for babies who have commenced screening but require a follow-up screen or babies who are over 6 weeks of age
	2	Delays in diagnostic audiology appointments may occur - parents/guardians waiting on an audiology appointment for their baby should have been contacted by the audiology department either with an appointment or with an update on when to expect an appointment
	3	Newborn hearing screening provided for hospital births/inpatients and prioritised cases in outpatient clinic (babies requiring a follow-up screen or babies over 6 weeks of age) Diagnostic audiology services provided for acute and prioritised cases
	4	Newborn hearing screening limited to hospital births/inpatients across most DHBs Diagnostic audiology services provided for acute cases only

Contact details for each DHB newborn hearing screening provider is available at <https://www.nsu.govt.nz/pregnancy-newborn-screening/universal-newborn-hearing-screening-programme/screening-services-contact>

The above guidelines for the provision of antenatal and newborn screening during COVID-19 were developed in partnership with the New Zealand College of Midwives. Reviewed and updated August 2021.