

COLLECTING, HANDLING, AND SHIPPING NEWBORN SCREENING BLOOD COLLECTION FILTER PAPERS

1. **HANDLING:** do not touch the end of the filter paper which has the circles on it.
2. **FLAP:** Fold the flap back during blood collection AND drying. Do not allow flap to touch blood spots until they are completely dry.
3. **DRYING:** Blood spots must be dried flat (horizontally), not touching any other surface. Suspend the blood-soaked area so that air can dry both sides of the card equally. Using a drying rack or sticking the filter paper out between the pages of a book work well. Do not hang the filter papers vertically, as this may cause pooling of the blood. Air dry completely at room temperature, about 4 hours.

NOTE: Do not use artificial heat (lamps, incubators, blow dryers, etc.) to dry the samples.

4. **FLAP:** After the specimen is completely dry, fold the protective flap back over the dried blood spots.
5. **HANDLING AND SHIPPING:** Mail/ship specimens as soon as possible to avoid delays in processing. Avoid exposing filter papers to high temperatures, such as leaving them in a car or rural mailbox for any length of time.
6. **ANY QUESTIONS:** Call the Newborn Screening Program.