

Date: November 13, 2025

To: Interested Parties

From: Akiko Saito, Laboratory Business Director
Oregon State Public Health Laboratory
Public Health Division

Subject: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking – OAR 333-024, “Newborn Screening updates to practice guidelines and alignment with statute (HB 2741, 2025)”

The Oregon Health Authority (Authority), Public Health Division, Oregon State Public Health Laboratory's (OSPHL) Northwest Regional Newborn Bloodspot Screening Program (NWRNBS Program) is proposing to amend existing rules for newborn bloodspot screening to align with recent changes in statute (2025 Oregon Laws, Chapter 203 (HB 2741)) and adjust rules to align with practice guidelines. In this proposed rulemaking, the NWRNBS Program proposes:

- Amendments to OAR 333-024-1000 and OAR 333-024-1050 to add in the ability of parents or legal guardians to opt out of screening because of their religious **or philosophical** beliefs. This aligns the rule with new statutory changes. 2025 Oregon Laws, Chapter 203 (HB 2741).
- Amendments to OAR 333-024-1000 and OAR 333-024-1050 to incorporate more inclusive language with the addition of **legal guardians** or parents. This aligns the rule with new statutory changes. 2025 Oregon Laws, Chapter 203 (HB 2741).
- Updates to OAR 333-024-1040 requiring a blood card be submitted for all babies born in Oregon. If no blood is collected on the card, because parents or legal guardians opt out of screening (refusal), the baby is transferred to another care facility prior to 24 hours of life, or the baby is deceased, the persons responsible

for collecting specimens (OAR 333-024-1020 to 333-024-1025) must still complete the demographic information on the card and send it to the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory. An opt out for religious or philosophical beliefs requires the parent or legal guardian to also complete the Objection to Newborn Screening Blood Test form.

- Methods of testing for each listed disorder is being removed to allow the laboratory to update methods as needed to ensure accuracy of results and alignment with best practices (OAR 333-024-1070).
- Updates to OAR 333-024-1080 adding consistency by including **legal** before guardian.

For more details, please see the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking including the Statements of Need and Fiscal and Racial Equity Impacts, and the full text of the proposed rules at: :

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/LABORATORYSERVICES/NEWBORNSCREENING/Pages/newborn-screening-news.aspx>

You are invited to review and comment on the proposed rules. There are two (2) options to provide comment:

- 1) You may provide oral (spoken) testimony during a public hearing scheduled on **Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 1:30 P.M. Pacific Time** via video/phone conference using Microsoft Teams.
 - To provide oral testimony during this hearing:
 - Join using the [Meeting URL](#). You can also find the join link for the meeting in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking under "Remote Meeting Details" using the "Meeting URL."
 - You may also contact the Public Health Division Rules Coordinator at publichealth.rules@odhsoha.oregon.gov to sign-up to give oral testimony and receive the link for the Microsoft Teams video conference via calendar appointment.
 - To join the hearing via phone (audio/listen only), you may dial 971-277-2343, phone conference ID 198 292 183#
- 2) Written comments may be submitted **before 5:00 P.M. Pacific Time on December 22, 2025:**
 - Email comments to: publichealth.rules@odhsoha.oregon.gov

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Voice: 503-693-4100 | Fax: 503-693-5600

All relay calls accepted | [oregon.gov/OHA](https://www.oregon.gov/OHA)

- Mail comments* to: OHA - Public Health Division
Brittany Hall, Administrative Rules Coordinator
800 NE Oregon St. Suite 930
Portland, OR 97232

*Comments sent by regular mail must be postmarked by 5:00 P.M. Pacific Time on December 22, 2025.

- Send comments by fax to 971-673-1299

Final rules will be filed after consideration of all comments.

If you have questions or would like a paper copy of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, please contact Patrice Held at 503-693-4172 or publichealth.rules@odhsoha.oregon.gov.

Accessibility Statement: For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide free help. Some examples are: sign language and spoken language interpreters, real-time captioning, braille, large print, audio, and written materials in other languages. If you need help with these services, please contact the Public Health Administrative Rules Coordinator at 971-673-1222, 711 TTY or publichealth.rules@odhsoha.oregon.gov at least 48 hours before the meeting. All relay calls are accepted. To best ensure our ability to provide a modification please contact us if you are considering attending the meeting and require a modification. The earlier you make a request the more likely we can meet the need.