



STATE OF ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
**PUBLIC HEALTH**

**NEWBORN SCREENING 60-SEC**

This is State Health Officer, Doctor Scott Harris. Newborn screening is one of public health's greatest achievements. It is responsible for saving about 12,000 babies each year in the United States from death or disability.

Alabama is proud to lead the way in protecting newborn and infant health, with one of the most comprehensive newborn screening programs in the country. The screenings, which are required by law, include tests for genetic disorders, hearing loss and congenital heart defects. Newborn screening leads to early identification of disorders resulting in improved lives of Alabama's babies and their families.

I also want to take a moment to recognize National Infant Immunization Week, which is an annual observance that highlights the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases. I urge you to speak with your physician about the vaccinations available to your infant, their benefits, and when they need to be administered.

Your child's health is an issue that we take seriously at the Alabama Department of Public Health. For more information, visit our website at [alabama-public-health-dot-gov-slash-newborn-screening](http://alabama-public-health-dot-gov-slash-newborn-screening).

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