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Resources and Strategies for NBS during COVID-19

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APHL Services/Resources

- Hot Topics Webinars
- Committee/Subcommittee/Workgroup expert engagement
- Individual, focused outreach
- Website for resource compilation
- Listserv for real-time information sharing



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COVID-19

At APHL and NewSTEPS, we understand that many of our public health members are engaged in the COVID-19 response. We thank you and commend you for your work in ensuring that essential operations continue, and newborns get screened and treated during these extraordinary times. We are committed to serving the NBS community's needs, and as such, are working to compile resources and guidance regarding the NBS COVID-19 response. If you have additional challenges and/ or best practices and ways to address challenges, please email the [NewSTEPS inbox](#).

It should be noted that resources provided are from state NBS programs and partner organizations, and are not necessarily national recommendations.

Practices and Resources:

- [Continuity of Operations Plans \(COOP\)](#)
- [Courier](#)
- [Second or repeat screens](#)
- [Disorder specific](#)
- [Education and outreach](#)
- [Telehealth](#)
- [APHL / NewSTEPS / other](#)
- [Biosafety of specimens](#)
- [Supply shortages](#)

Updated daily
Community (member) developed
Resources and guidance
Not necessarily national recommendations

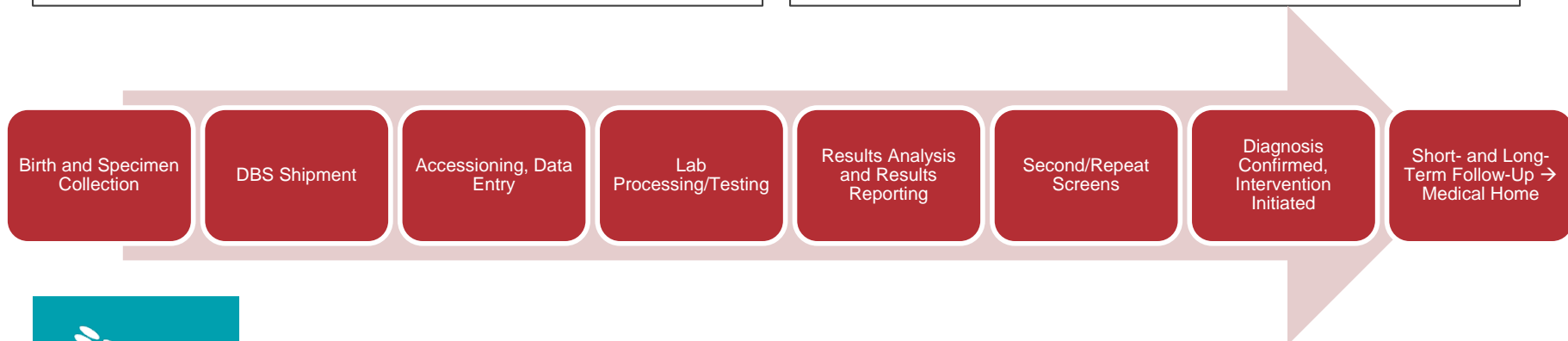
NBS and COVID-19

Birth/Collection/Courier

- Time of specimen collection (early discharge)
- Specimen quality
- Courier as an essential service with FedEx and UPS severely limiting deliveries
- Decreased pick-ups
- Changes in courier pick-up location

Staff Continuity of Operations

- Biosafety of specimens, handling DBS cards
- Performing time critical testing with limited staff
- Staggering shifts, ensuring staff are not exposed
- Physical distancing in the laboratory
- Daycares and school closures impact staffing
- Follow-up staff working remotely



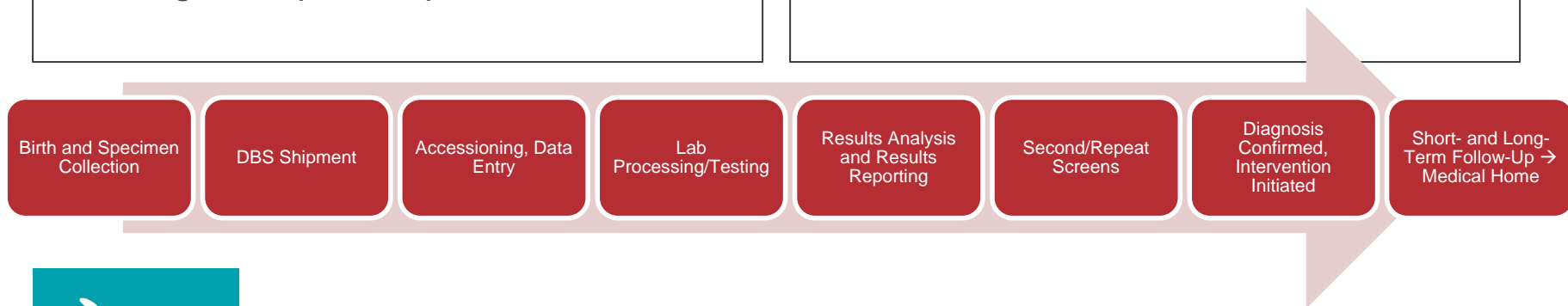
NBS and COVID-19

Second or Repeat Screens

- Families do not want to return to the hospital/birthing facility for repeat/second specimen collection
- Hospitals/birthing facilities practicing social distancing and turning away “non-essential patients”
- Some outpatient laboratories and some clinics closed
- Minimizing risk to families who have to seek confirmatory testing
- Triage of repeat requests

Analysis and Testing

- Incorporating age related cut-offs for early specimen collection
- Triaging abnormal results
- Screening unsatisfactory specimens
- Disorder specific nuances- time critical versus not as time critical; confirming diagnoses; interventions; access to specialists; access to genetic consultations
- Require electronic results reporting



NBS and COVID-19

Education and Outreach*

- Midwife education, increase in home births
- How is screening process impacted by COVID-19
- Communication to PCPs and parents
- Telehealth for continuity of services

*Genetic Alliance, Expecting Health

Supply Shortages

- PPE for laboratory and hospital staff
- Gloves, reagents, kits
- Pipette tips

These continue to be tracked in real-time. Additional shortages are expected as the pandemic testing needs and capacities evolve.

