

Continuity of Operations Planning (COOP) in Newborn Screening

Lessons and needs learned from the COVID-19 pandemic

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Susan Tanksley, PhD

- Emergencies come in all shapes & sizes - from local to global impact
- NBS programs need a COOP and we need to learn from each response
- NBS is a system AND each part of the system must be prepared. Have a plan, exercise it, update it



Michele Caggana, ScD, FACMG

NBS programs need to:

- maintain communication with all members of the system
- maintain flexibility
- be prepared to pivot to operate during emergencies



Review of February 11 COOP Panel



Joyal Meyer, MSN

- ND outsources their NBS specimens to a regional NBS lab.
- ND is a very rural state that has limited specialists; one of the main challenges families experience is the need to travel to appointments given the distance to clinics,

and the unpredictable weather and temperatures in ND.

- States that rely on a regional lab for NBS have unique needs for contingency planning.



Scott Shone, PhD

- NBS CONPLAN is due for an update.
- Funding is needed to develop resources to support states and build an infrastructure that can support NBS continuity of operations.
- Now more than ever, there needs to be a systematic approach and solution.

