



STATE OF MARYLAND

**DHMH**

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

*Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Van Mitchell, Secretary*

Laboratories Administration  
Robert A. Myers, Ph.D., Director

**DATE:** March 31, 2016

**FROM:** Dr. Fizza Gulamali-Majid, Division Chief  
Division of Newborn and Childhood Screening *FJM*

**THROUGH:** Robert A. Myers, Ph.D., Director  
Laboratories Administration *R.A.M.*

**TO:** **Pediatricians and Health Care Providers**

**Newborn Screening for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) to begin April 1, 2016.**

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is pleased to announce the addition of Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) to the Maryland Newborn Screening Panel beginning April 1, 2016.

**What is Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID)?**

Severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) is a group of inherited disorders, characterized by a deficiency or absence of functional T-cells and B-cells. SCID is one of the most serious and life-threatening forms of immune system problems. It can occur in approximately one in 40,000 to one in 100,000 babies a year. Babies with SCID are unable to make antibodies to protect themselves or respond effectively to infectious agents. Although they typically appear normal at birth due to protection by the mother's antibodies, these babies quickly become vulnerable to recurring infections. Even common infections and normally recommended vaccines can be life-threatening to affected babies. Although rare, SCID can be successfully treated if identified early in life. If not treated, most of the affected infants die within the first year of life.

The addition of SCID to the Newborn Screening Panel will not require an additional specimen.

**Where can I find more information about Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID)?**

For Healthcare Providers:

- ACT/FACT sheets <https://www.acmg.net/StaticContent/ACT/SCID.pdf>

For Parents:

- Baby's First Test <http://www.babysfirsttest.org>
- Save Babies Through Screening Foundation <http://www.savebabies.org>
- Immune Deficiency Foundation <http://primaryimmune.org>

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) Newborn Screening Program will have more information and educational brochures on Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) available soon on DHMH Laboratories Administration Website. <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/laboratories>

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Newborn Screening Laboratory at:

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