

# Oregon to begin enrollment in nationwide newborn genomic screening research study

 [oregon.gov/oha/ERD/Pages/Oregon-to-begin-enrollment-in-nationwide-newborn-genomic-screening-research-study-10.05.2026.aspx](https://oregon.gov/oha/ERD/Pages/Oregon-to-begin-enrollment-in-nationwide-newborn-genomic-screening-research-study-10.05.2026.aspx)

**October 5, 2026**

## ***Recruitment to take place at PeaceHealth-Eugene and Oregon Health & Science University, along with statewide outreach***

PORTLAND, Ore.—The [Northwest Regional Newborn Bloodspot Screening \(NWRNBS\) Program](#) and [BRIDGES-NBS](#) today announced enrollment will begin soon for a national research study evaluating whether genome sequencing can be responsibly added to routine newborn screening.

Recruitment in Oregon, one of seven participating states and territories, will take place through in-person outreach at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend in Springfield and Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU). In addition, families across the state can learn about the study and choose to self-enroll.

“Partnership with BRIDGES-NBS will allow the Northwest Regional Newborn Bloodspot Screening Program to explore a new method for identifying hundreds of genetic conditions in the newborn period, where early detection, monitoring, and treatment can lead to improved outcomes,” said Patrice Held, Ph.D., Newborn Screening Program manager at the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory.

“Genome sequencing has the promise to transform the field of newborn screening from a small panel of 46 conditions to more than 700 conditions,” Held said.

BRIDGES-NBS is the nation's first coordinated, multi-state genomic newborn screening effort. The study will assess the feasibility of integrating genome sequencing into existing state public health newborn screening programs, exploring how public health, genomic sequencing, and clinical care can work better together for newborns and their families.

Genome sequencing for newborn screening starts with a small blood sample from the baby. The laboratory uses the sample to look for specific genetic changes that may be associated with certain health conditions. The goal is to identify genetic changes that could indicate that a baby may need additional testing or follow-up care.