

## **Memo from Prenatal Screening Ontario regarding access to labs for eFTS during COVID.**

We have recently been informed that some pregnant people are instructed they must have their enhanced First Trimester Screening (eFTS) blood sample collected on the same day as the nuchal translucency ultrasound.

While same day blood sampling is ideal and preferred, it is **not** essential and blood samples can be accepted until the crown rump length is 84 mm (approximately 13 weeks and 3 days)

It is important that pregnant people are provided with the maximum opportunity to access this screening.

### **Please take note of the following information with regards to eFTS:**

1. eFTS is a screen for: trisomy 21 (Down syndrome) and trisomy 18.
2. eFTS must be done within a certain time window in pregnancy: 11 weeks 2 days to 13 weeks 3 days gestation. The nuchal translucency ultrasound and blood test must be performed within this time window.
3. The nuchal translucency ultrasound has to be done first, before the blood test. **The blood test can be performed on the same day as the nuchal translucency ultrasound if possible, but this is NOT required. The blood test can be done any time after the ultrasound up until 13 weeks 3 days gestation.**

If you have questions or concerns regarding the above information, please do not hesitate to contact Prenatal Screening Ontario at 1-833-351-6490 or [psobornontario.ca](mailto:psobornontario.ca).