



Brenda Fitzgerald, MD, Commissioner | Nathan Deal, Governor

2 Peachtree Street NW, 15th Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3142  
dph.ga.gov

December 15, 2015

Dear Provider,

Please note that effective January 1, 2016, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) surveillance will be added to the list of conditions that are notifiable by law to the Georgia Department of Public Health. The list of reportable conditions can be found using this link: [dph.georgia.gov/disease-reporting](http://dph.georgia.gov/disease-reporting).

NAS is a condition that results from the abrupt discontinuation of chronic fetal exposure to substances that were used or abused by the mother during pregnancy. Having NAS on the list of notifiable conditions provides the opportunity to:

1. Assess the incidence of NAS in Georgia and trends over time
2. Identify opportunities for timely intervention and education
3. Better characterize risk factors for NAS in Georgia
4. Assess capacity to address maternal addiction and provide multidisciplinary care for the child/family affected by substance abuse

Criteria for reporting NAS will include at least one of the following: a baby born to a mother with a history of substance abuse during pregnancy, a newborn with withdrawal symptoms and/or a newborn with a positive drug screen. Reports should be submitted within 7 days of identification. Cases can be reported electronically through our secure web based State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SendSS) at [sendss.state.ga.us](http://sendss.state.ga.us). As with all notifiable disease data reported to our Department, data regarding NAS will remain confidential in accordance with Georgia law, Code Sections 31-2-12 and 31-5-5. Frequently asked questions (FAQs) related to NAS can be found at: [dph.georgia.gov/NAS](http://dph.georgia.gov/NAS).

Thank you for working with us to protect the lives of Georgia's mothers and children. Should you have any questions please contact the Maternal and Child Section in the Georgia Department of Public Health at 404-657-2850.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brenda Fitzgerald'.

Brenda Fitzgerald, M.D.



**We Protect Lives.**