



Industrial Strike Action Notice

Community Laboratory Service

Waikato / Hamilton

Updated information of industrial strike action
Monday 24th, Tuesday 25th & Wednesday 26th March.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this challenging time. Please take these restrictions into account when interacting with your patients and defer non-urgent tests where possible.

Services Impacted by the Industrial Action

Waikato

- Pathlab Tristram Street, Hamilton only collection room open **8am – 5pm** (patients will be triaged as per Urgent Test list).
- **All** other Pathlab collection rooms in the Waikato/Hauraki/Coromandel region closed.
- **Only Urgent blood samples**, (as outlined below) are to be collected at the practice.
- Usual phlebotomy service to Braemar & Southern Cross (Hamilton) hospitals.
- All Pathlab internal couriers will be running to GP practises as usual.
- **Microbiology specimens will NOT be processed, a recollect request will be issued.**

Microbiology Service – all regions

- **All Microbiology specimens** (including urines, faeces, swabs, sputum, seminal fluids) **will NOT be processed, a recollect request will be issued.**
- Microbiology specimens may be sent to the laboratory after the industrial action providing they are stored under appropriate conditions and reach the laboratory in the stated timeframe:

| Specimen | Storage conditions | Maximum time collection to laboratory receipt |
|--|--------------------|---|
| Bacterial culture swab, white cap eSwab* | Fridge temperature | 4 days* |
| STI swabs & urines, green & yellow cap molecular tubes | Fridge temperature | 21 days |
| HSV/VZV swabs, purple cap molecular tube | Fridge temperature | 7 days |
| HPV swabs, pink cap molecular tube | Fridge temperature | 15 days |
| SurePath vial | Room temperature | 28 days |
| Urine for microbiology | Fridge temperature | 1 day |
| Faeces for microbiology | Fridge temperature | 3 days |

*Excluding bacterial culture swabs for gonorrhoea that has a maximum storage time of 1 day at fridge temperature.

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Please ensure all members of your institution receive a copy of this important notice.

All notices are on the Clinician page on our website. www.pathlab.co.nz

Urgent Test List

All request forms to state URGENT investigation. All appropriate clinical information MUST be provided. An indicative list as below:

- Troponin
- Oncology Patients - pre-Chemo
- Clozapine
- INR - urgent due to instability
- D-dimer for VTE Care pathway
- Electrolytes etc for urgent / critical care
- B-HCG serum for ? Ectopic pregnancy / foetal viability
- CBC
- Coagulation studies
- Time critical investigations e.g. CRP / ESR for GCA

Post Industrial Action

Please note that on the days following industrial action the demand for laboratory services is greater than usual meaning patients may experience extended wait times at Pathlab collection rooms, and results may take longer to be reported. We would ask that you instruct patients to delay attending our rooms for non-urgent blood tests until a week or two after the industrial action.

During the strike action there will be a longer delay in transporting samples to the testing laboratory. We suggest that time critical tests such as Potassium are collected as close to the courier pickup time as possible, to minimise possibility of sample degradation.

If you have any urgent concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us via our website [Contact Us page](#) which is monitored between 7.30am and 5.00pm.

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