



# Industrial Strike Action Notice

## Community Laboratory Service

### Rotorua, Taupo

Updated information of industrial strike action  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> 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

##### Rotorua

- All Pathlab collection rooms **CLOSED**.
- All Pathlab couriers will be running to GP practises as usual.
- **Only Urgent blood samples**, (as outlined below) are to be collected at the practice.
- Samples will be sent to Tauranga laboratories resulting in a delay in turnaround times.
- **Microbiology specimens will NOT be processed, a recollect request will be issued.**

##### Taupo

- All Pathlab collection rooms **CLOSED**.
- Turangi & Mangakino couriers as per usual.
- **Only Urgent blood samples**, (as outlined below) are to be collected at the practice.
- Taupo GP practises to deliver specimens to Taupo hospital laboratory.
- Samples will be sent to Tauranga laboratories resulting in a delay in turnaround times.
- **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.

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](http://www.pathlab.co.nz)

Industrial Strike Action

### 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.