



13 December 2019

Waikato DHB has received further strike notices from APEX for Hospital Laboratory staff. Whilst we do anticipate disruption to patients we have been working on contingency plans to minimise this and ensure patient safety.

Dates and contingency plans are detailed below:

Waikato Hospital Laboratory staff have given notice of industrial action on Monday 23 December, Tuesday 24 December and Friday 27 December. Each laboratory department will be withdrawing labour for 8-48 hours across the week.

Thames, Tokoroa, Taumarunui and Te Kuiti hospital laboratory staff have given notice of complete withdrawal of labour from 0730 Tuesday 24 December to 0730 Wednesday 25 December.

Due to industrial action and public holidays we are expecting possible delays for non-urgent tests. All urgent tests will be processed as usual. These delays extend to those that Pathlab send away to our hospital labs for processing including immunology, serology, non-routine chemistry and TB tests. Molecular Biology, Haematology, Cytogenetics, Cytology and Histology will have full capacity so will be business as usual.

Patients attending the Waikato DHB blood collection clinics will be received however capacity for timely collection will be limited. We would therefore appreciate your support to restrict the number of patients attending on the following days:

27 December at Waikato Hospital Reception A

24 December at Thames, Tokoroa, Taumarunui and Te Kuiti

If test requests are not urgent, please advise your patients to defer collection of their specimens to an alternative day.

Yours sincerely

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