



Collection Facilities / Patient & Healthcare worker safety

Collection Facilities

The following facilities will now be open. These are being constantly reviewed based on community need and staff availability.

Hamilton City- The current 4 sites to remain unchanged

1. 58 Tristram street
2. Hillcrest (east)
3. Dinsdale (west)
4. Rototuna (north)

Effective Wednesday 1st April:

Waikato

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Huntly West | 9. Thames |
| 2. Whitianga | 10. Cambridge |
| 3. Whangamata | 11. Ngaruawahia |
| 4. Paeroa | 12. Otorahanga |
| 5. Matamata | 13. Putaruru |
| 6. Morrinsville | 14. Raglan – at the Medical centre |
| 7. Leamington | 15. Te Aroha |
| 8. Te Awamutu | 16. Waihi |

Huntly East remains closed.

Home Visits and rest-homes - This service will be reinstated from Wednesday under agreed criteria as follows.

Patient & Healthcare worker safety

To ensure continuity of service during the COVID-19 pandemic, Pathlab laboratories have requested that all requestors ensure that they **choose wisely**.

The term 'choose wisely' now has a **very** different interpretation so before requesting any laboratory investigation tests during alert level 4, please consider:

- Will this Investigation change my patient management?
- Can I leave this investigation for a period of time, with acceptable clinical risk?
- Will this 'Bubble breaker event' expose my patient to an acceptable risk?
- Does this 'Bubble breaker event' expose the front-line staff an acceptable risk?

CLINICAL UPDATE

These considerations are now even more important with our **domiciliary service**.

Current Domiciliary criteria:

- Immunocompromised patients
- Bed bound or incapacitated patients
- Dementia/ Hospital level patients

Additional considerations:

- As a rest home facility, are you able to move your patient to an area close to the entrance so that the phlebotomist does not have to move around your facility?
- Pathlab need to be made aware prior to the visit if the patient currently has a cough, fever, shortness of breath, sore throat or a suspected COVID infection, as separate PPE will be required for the visit.
- Does this patient really need a home visit / can they attend a collection site under their own steam using the facility's transport?
- Do you have a nurse that is able to collect the sample as Pathlab couriers can collect it from you?
- If it is an INR - For most people once the INR is stable, the rate of INR testing can be extended to two weekly and then four to six weekly. In some stable patients the frequency may be extended out to eight weeks. However, people with higher levels of risk, e.g. comorbidities, may need more frequent testing.

Please note:

- Only requests from GP's will be accepted,
- Being over 70 years old is not a criterion for a home visit, and
- Lack of transport is not a criterion for a home visit.

Pathlab will continue to support all our communities, but like most healthcare services at this time, we have limited resource and high risk of loss of service continuity.

**We humbly ask you to please 'choose wisely'
to ensure the safety of our community.**

Claudio Turilli
Operations Manager

CLINICAL UPDATE

**Please ensure all members of your institution
receive a copy of this clinical update.**