



# COVID-19 Level 4 Laboratory Services WAIKATO

Hospital and community laboratories nationwide have been instructed to reduce non-essential testing in order to conserve reagents, cope with staff shortages and mobilise the workforce for COVID-19.

## Reduction in Community Collection Facilities

With the move to Alert Level 4 at 11.59pm Wednesday March 25<sup>th</sup> we have to keep our frontline phlebotomists well. To this end they are required to wear PPE and we are limited by the level of stocks in the country. ALL Pathlab collection facilities will be **CLOSED FROM Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March** with the exception of the following:

### Hamilton:

58 Tristram street	Mon – Fri 7.30am to 6pm, Sat 8am to 12noon
Hillcrest	Mon – Fri 8am to 5pm
Dinsdale	Mon – Fri 8am to 5pm
Rototuna	Mon – Fri 8am to 5pm

### Rural:

Whitianga	Mon – Fri 8am to 3.15pm
Whangamata	Mon - Fri 8am to 4.15pm
Thames	Mon - Fri 8.30am to 4.30pm
Paeroa	Mon – Fri 8.00am to 4.3pm
Matamata	Mon – Fri 8.00am to 4.15pm
Huntly West	Mon – Fri 8.00am to 4.00pm

### Suspended visits:

Domiciliary (home visits), rest home facilities, private hospitals

**Courier Services** - Unless otherwise notified, Pathlab's current courier service to your practice will continue.

## Reduction in Laboratory Requests

We ask all clinicians to immediately reconsider or reduce the frequency of laboratory tests that are non-essential, discretionary, routine or can be delayed.

FNAs, bone marrows and skin allergies will require pre-approval by a pathologist and will be restricted to only where absolutely clinically necessary.

This is an evolving situation and further notifications may follow.

We appreciated your understanding and assistance in this unusual time and thank those of you who are already doing this or planning to.

**Dianne McQueen, Chief Executive**

CLINICAL UPDATE

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