



Laboratory Strike Notice

BOP Hospital Laboratory Services

We have been notified today of **industrial strike action** by APEX union members, which includes Pathlab’s laboratory workers in your area, is **scheduled for Monday 24th to Wednesday 26th March**. The action only involves staff who are members of the APEX union, so the impact will vary across regions depending on the mix and number of APEX staff. Below is an overview of how services will be affected to help you plan accordingly.

Services Impacted by the Industrial Action

Whakatane Hospital

- **All specimens** (biochemistry, haematology, transfusion, microbiology services) **will be on a strict LPS basis only.**

Tauranga Hospital

- **Microbiology testing to operate on an LPS basis only.** Routine specimens will only be processed during the day shift as resources allow.
- Business as usual for biochemistry, haematology, and transfusion services.

Life Preserving Services (LPS) Test List

The LPS test list and process will be outlined in communication from Health New Zealand at your hospital.

Microbiology Service

- **All Microbiology services** will be as above.
- 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
Urine for microbiology	Fridge temperature	1 day
Faeces for microbiology	Fridge temperature	3 days

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

Post Industrial Action

Please note that on the days following industrial action the demand for laboratory services will be greater than usual meaning results may take longer to be reported. We would ask that you limit non-urgent tests in the week or two after industrial action.

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

Industrial Strike Action