



# COVID-19 Level 4 Laboratory Information LAKES

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** with the exception of the following:

<b>Rotorua</b> - Haupapa Street	7.00am – 5.00pm
<b>Taupo</b> - Tuwharetoa Street	7.30am – 4.45pm
Hospital community collection	CLOSED
<b>Turangi</b> - Pihanga Health	8.00am – 3.00pm

**Domiciliary (home), Rest Homes, Private Hospital visits** - These services has been suspended until further notice.

**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 appreciate 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.

