



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.

Rotorua

Haupapa Street – 7.00am – 5.00pm

Taupo

Tuwharetoa Street – 7.30am – 4.45pm

Turangi

Pihanga Health – 8.00am – 3.00pm

Please note the hospital community collection facilities in both Rotorua and Taupo hospitals are CLOSED.

Home Visits and rest-homes - This service has been reinstated 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?

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.**

**Jo Hartigan
Operations Manager**

CLINICAL UPDATE

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

