



COVID-19 Level 4 Laboratory Services BOP

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 25th 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:

Bay of Plenty Western Bay

Cameron Road (Pathlab Tauranga Hospital) 7.30am - 6.00pm
Mount Maunganui (Granada Street) 7.30am – 5.00pm

Bay of Plenty Eastern Bay

Whakatane Hospital (41 Stewart Street) 8.00am – 4.30pm
Opotiki (32 King Street) 7.30am – 2.00pm

Please note: These rooms will NOT be opening in the weekends. For any urgent collects required on weekends, your patients are asked to visit the main reception at Tauranga hospital and the on-call service will be contacted.

Domiciliary Home Visits - This service 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 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.**