

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Laboratory Staff Strike Information for CMDHB Patients and the Community

Laboratory staff who are members of the Medical Laboratory Workers Union are on strike from 8am Wednesday 29th November to 8am Wednesday 6th December.

AT CMDHB, 98% OF OUR LABORATORY STAFF ARE MEMBERS OF THE UNION.

What do our laboratory workers do?

Laboratory workers are a vital part of the health care team. This strike will significantly limit on our ability to deliver normal hospital and outpatient services for our community.

- Laboratory staff carry out tests ordered by your doctor on samples of tissue, blood and body fluids taken from patients while you are in hospital or when you attend an outpatient clinic
- Results from these tests help your doctor to understand your illness and inform you about treatment options.
- They are also involved in finding out your blood type and matching your blood type to blood if you need a blood transfusion.

What will happen during the strike?

During the strike we will only be able to provide a very limited laboratory service. This means that many of the tests done routinely as part of your care will not be able to be done while you are in hospital, or may get delayed until after the strike is over.

In some cases we will be postponing elective surgery if we are not satisfied that we can provide the services safely without the availability of routine laboratory services. You will be notified if you were expecting to have elective surgery and that this has been postponed. If you want to check your elective surgery appointment you can contact our Call Centre, (09) 277 1660.

What tests will be done?

We have made arrangements with the Union to provide laboratory services in emergency life threatening situations.

How the strike will affect you

Our priority is the safety of our patients and we have put in place plans for people who will be patients at Middlemore Hospital, Manukau Surgery Centre and Super Clinics at Botany and Manukau during the strike. If you are a patient during this time, we will talk to you about the need for laboratory tests and the risks of not having the tests that would usually be done.

What will happen if I need to be admitted to hospital for urgent treatment during the strike?

If you need urgent treatment, you will receive it but in some cases we might need to look at different ways to providing some of this treatment. We will discuss any changes in treatment plan with you.

Urgent treatment will be provided during the strike. Your doctor will discuss any risks associated with the non-availability of laboratory services with you. You can expect that treatment options will be discussed with you. .

Your care and safety are our greatest concern, and your best interests are our most important focus.

What can I do?

All non-urgent patients who come to emergency departments may be asked to seek help from their family doctor or nearest accident and medical centre.

Middlemore Hospitals will be accepting women in labour.

For all non-urgent illnesses and injuries, please, see your family doctor first and leave the emergency departments for emergencies only.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation.
ENQUIRIES 277 1660