

Media Release

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More Strike Action To Cause Hospital Delays

Additional industrial action by the New Zealand Medical Laboratory Workers' Union starting tonight will cause further delays for Auckland and Counties Manukau District Health Board patients.

The latest total withdrawal of labour by medical laboratory workers starts at midnight tonight and will last 48 hours until midnight on Friday, affecting Auckland City Hospital, Starship Hospital, Greenlane Clinical Centre and Middlemore Hospital.

A total of 136 staff will be involved in the strike at Auckland over the two days and 138 at Counties Manukau.

Ngaire Buchanan, regional spokesperson for the Auckland district health boards, said the DHBs would take every possible step to ensure services ran as smoothly as possible in the circumstances.

She said non-unionised laboratory staff members would continue to work as normal and life-preserving services contingency plans had been agreed with the union, meaning the public could be assured that patients with acute needs would receive the usual priority.

“However, we do expect the industrial action to result in delays for many of our patients in processing laboratory requests and receiving results,” Ms Buchanan said.

“Regrettably, in some cases these delays may be very long and add to the stresses experienced by patients and their families.

“We apologise in advance for this inconvenience but this situation is beyond the control of the district health boards.

“We will manage it as best we can but patients need to be aware we will not have the usual capacity to provide services.”

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