

Awanui Labs Canterbury service disruption due to industrial action

**Industrial action: 00:01 Monday 2nd November – 23:59
Wednesday 4th November 2026**

APEX Union have announced their members who work at Awanui Labs in the Northern, Central and South Island regions will take industrial action (strike) from 2 - 4 November 2026 inclusive – a continuous 72-hour period.

The strike is a full withdrawal of labour, which means APEX Union members who work in the laboratory, collection centres, logistics and support staff (in some regions), will strike on these days.

See below for specific service changes in the Canterbury region during this time.

Our priority is keeping our people and patients safe and maintaining essential laboratory services during the strike period.

Awanui respects the right of union members within our organisation to strike, and we understand these periods in the business can create a challenging environment.

We thank you for your continued understanding and support during this time.

Service changes in Canterbury

Laboratory services will be severely restricted on **Monday 2 – Wednesday 4 November.**

What community referrers need to know:

- Do not collect or send routine specimens during the industrial action period.
- Only clinically urgent tests will be accepted. Any routine specimens sent to the laboratory may not be processed.

Routine Awanui courier services: UNAVAILABLE

Your scheduled Awanui Courier pick up will not occur and drop boxes will not be cleared. A courier service for Clinically Urgent samples will be available in Christchurch Metro areas between 0900 – 1600 each day. Please Call 03 3590900 to arrange.

External courier services in rural areas will continue, however we can only accept clinically urgent specimens. Please do not send any other routine samples to the laboratory during Industrial Action. Any samples received that are not clinically urgent may not be processed.

Please do not hold samples to be collected and processed post industrial action, where clinically appropriate please defer sample collection until usual laboratory service resumes.

Microbiology Services: Due to the prolonged nature of microbiology work, do not send routine microbiology samples including urines, faeces, sputum, and swabs, to the laboratory routine samples will not be processed during this period.

Histology: For un-booked frozen sections, call the laboratory as usual to arrange an urgent courier pickup. Turnaround times will be affected by industrial action.

Other Lab Testing or clinics: Seminal fluid testing, Mycology and the FNA clinic will not occur during this period.

Collection centres - Limited collection services will be available, where clinically appropriate, please ask your patients to defer sample collection until after the Industrial action period

Christchurch Collection Centre	
Northfield	7:00 am – 11:30 am - Walk in only
Hornby	7:30 am – 11:30 am - Walk in only
All other Christchurch collection centres	CLOSED
Christchurch Home Visits	Clinically Urgent Only
Ashburton Collection Centre	
Ashburton	8:30 am – 11:30 am
Ashburton Home Visits	Unavailable