

Awanui Labs Dunedin and Balclutha 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 Dunedin and Balclutha 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 Dunedin and Balclutha

Laboratory services will be severely restricted on **Monday 2 – Wednesday 4 November**. Routine specimens will not be accepted or processed.

What community referrers need to know

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

Critically Urgent collection services - An urgent blood collection service will be available for practices that cannot provide their own collection between 8:00am – 4:00pm. Please call 0800 101 444 or 03 470 2919 to arrange.

Routine Awanui courier services: UNAVAILABLE

Your scheduled Awanui Courier pick up will not occur.

Critically urgent sample collections will be available daily only in Dunedin, 8:00 am–4:00 pm. Please call 0800 101 444 or 03 470 2919 to arrange.

External courier services will continue. Place critically urgent specimens only in external courier bins; please do not send any routine samples to the laboratory during this period, routine samples 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, routine microbiology samples including urines, faeces, sputum, swabs and aspirates, cannot be received by the laboratory **from 8pm Friday 30 October**. Normal Microbiology services will resume Thursday 5 November.

Histology: Please restrict requests. Turnaround time will be affected by the Industrial Action.

Other Lab Testing or clinics: Seminal, Allergy, Venesection, Mycology, Paternity, DNA and FNA testing will not occur during this period.

Collection centres: Collection centres: All Collection Centres and Home Visits will be unavailable during this period.

Otago Collection Centres	
Dunedin	
Filleul St Collection Centre	Closed
South Dunedin Collection Centre	Closed
Marinoto Collection Centre	Closed
Mosgiel Collection Centre	Closed
Dunedin Hospital Collection Centre	Closed
Home Visits	Unavailable
Balclutha	
Balclutha Collection Centre	Closed