

Awanui Labs Dunstan 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, and logistics and support staff (in some regions), will strike on these days.

See below for specific service changes in the Dunstan 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 Dunstan

Laboratory services will be severely restricted from **Monday 2 – Wednesday 4 November 2026**.

Please refer to below table:

Date	Time	Service Available
2 November	00:01 – 24:00	On-call service for critically urgent requests only
3 November	00:01 – 08:00	On-call service for critically urgent requests only
	08:00 – 13:00	Life preserving services testing only. During this time no community testing will be available. Testing will be for hospital patients only.
	13:00 – 17:00	On-site Critically urgent requests only
	17:00 – 23:59	Life preserving services testing only. During this time no community testing will be available. Testing will be for hospital patients only.
4 November	00:01 – 08:00	Life preserving services testing only. No community testing available during this time. Testing will be for hospital patients only.
	08:00 – 23:59	On-site 08:00-17:00 On-call service for critically urgent requests only

What community referrers need to know:

- Do not collect or send routine specimens during the industrial action period.
- Only critically urgent or LPS tests will be accepted. **Please note that LPS testing is not available for community referrers.** Any routine specimens received during this time outside may not be processed.

Routine Awanui Courier Services: UNAVAILABLE

Your scheduled Awanui Courier pick up will not occur.

A collection service for Critically Urgent samples only will be available. This service is not available during periods of LPS only – Please call 03 440 4305 to arrange an urgent courier collection.

External courier services will continue. Place only critically urgent specimens in external courier bins; please do not send any routine samples with the external couriers, routine samples will not be processed.

Please do not collect and hold samples for delivery post industrial action. Where clinically appropriate please defer patient sample collection until usual laboratory services resume.

Microbiology: Due to the prolonged nature of microbiology work, routine microbiology samples including urines, faeces, sputum, swabs and aspirates, cannot be sent to the laboratory and will not be processed **from 4pm Friday 30 October**. Normal services will resume Thursday 5 November.

Histology

Please restrict requests. Turnaround times 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 HomeVisits will be unavailable during this period.

Dunstan Collection Centres	
Dunstan Hospital Collection Centre	Closed
Home Visits	Unavailable