

17<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Simon Everitt  
Interim Chief Executive  
Bay of Plenty DHB  
helen.mason@bopdhb.govt.nz

Dear Simon

**Re: Industrial Action Proposed between  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 0001 to  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 23:59**

The New Zealand Blood Service received notice on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019 from the Association of Professionals and Executive Employees Inc (APEX) of intended strike action on behalf of all employees who are members of APEX and are covered by the bargaining initiated by letter from APEX dated 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

Please find enclosed an information sheet outlining the anticipated support that will be provided by NZBS to your hospital(s) during the period of industrial action. The situation remains fluid and I will notify you again prior to the day of action if we anticipate any material changes to our service.

If you anticipate that there will be any local factors that NZBS should be aware of regarding our joint working with your blood bank, then please let me know as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



**DR SARAH MORLEY**  
Chief Medical Officer



**NZBS Support During Planned Industrial Action by APEX Members  
between  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 0001 to  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 23:59**

**DHB: Information Sheet**

This document outlines the support that NZBS will aim to provide to the DHB during the period of industrial action.

The plan is based upon NZBS' current understanding that the industrial action will affect a number of our services and laboratories, but that we have been able to mitigate the impact on most services through internal staff management. At present we anticipate that we will be able to offer a normal service to most DHBs, with the exception of Canterbury DHB where discussions are ongoing. Those DHBs with blood banks not run by NZBS may be impacted by local factors. Please inform us if there are significant challenges to such services that may impact upon patient safety or our usual joint working.

**1. Access to blood components and blood products**

NZBS will continue to provide blood products on request during the period of industrial action. We anticipate that normal blood bank services will be maintained except within Christchurch Blood Bank where additional contingency planning is required. The procedure for requests for supply of blood components and products from NZBS Hub sites remains unchanged in all other DHBs.

**2. Access to NZBS red cell reference services**

NZBS' ability to provide red cell reference services will be maintained as usual during the period of industrial action.

**3. Access to NZBS National Tissue Typing laboratories**

A full tissue typing service will be provided during the period of industrial action. Normal systems should be followed.

**4. Access to NZBS Medical Advice**

NZBS will continue to provide 24-hour access to specialist clinical advice. During the period of industrial action.

**5. Contacts for further information**

If you have any questions or require clarification, then please contact the Area Manager at your local NZBS supply centre.