

Memo/Pānui

To	All hospital requestors
From:	Dr Aakash Chhibber, Clinical Microbiologist Dr Mahavishnu Moodley, Clinical Microbiologist Dr Mene van der Westhuyzen, Clinical Microbiologist
Date:	13/08/2026
Subject:	Microbiology IT Changeover & Risk Mitigation Strategy

Microbiology IT Changeover & Crisis Risk Mitigation Strategy

Dear Colleagues,

We write to update you on the upgrade to the Laboratory Information System with a set go-live date in October 2026, of which some of you may be aware. Unforeseen challenges with the change are creating business continuity risk for all laboratory tests. To mitigate this risk, we are proactively creating laboratory capacity to focus on ensuring this IT upgrade is as seamless and minimally disruptive to workflow as possible.

Laboratory capacity will be enhanced with two temporary measures, which will reduce low-impact testing. The following changes have been endorsed by Laboratory Services, Infectious Diseases, Infection Prevention and Control and the Chief Medical Officer.

- (1) Reduction of low impact MRSA screens
Local analysis showed that 99% of results did not lead to an IPC intervention. MRSA screens will only be performed for high-risk clinical scenarios (NICU, haematology/oncology) or at the discretion of the IPC team.
- (2) Reserving Genital Culture for complicated cases only
90% of genital cultures are performed on females within the reproductive age. In this population, presentation of uncomplicated vulvovaginitis can be managed with nucleic acid testing for STIs and Gram stain for BV/candidiasis, with culture reserved for refractory or recurrent disease.

At this stage, we envisage the above measures being implemented on **Monday 17th August 2026 for a period of three months.**

For further information, contact the Clinical Microbiologist at WK-ClinicalMicrobiologyPathologists@TeWhatuOra.govt.nz.

Many thanks for your understanding and support during this period.



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Dr Mahavishnu Moodley



Dr Mene van der Westhuyzen