

9 September 2021

Mr Gerard Hayes
Secretary
Health Services Union
Locked Bag 3
Australia Square NSW 1215

Dear Gerard

This letter is to advise you that NSW Health Pathology Microbiology Kogarah are needing to extend their roster of hours to 24 / 7. This change is to support the current COVID-19 testing in the Microbiology Laboratory at this site and the need to be able to provide results to patients coming to the hospital on a 24/7 basis.

The current process is that during these hours testing is completed on a Genexpert that provides rapid testing, but due to shortages in cartridges to run this analyser we will need to undertake 'normal' testing of COVID samples, which requires dedicated Microbiology staff. The Genexpert can be managed by staff from other departments that are already 24/7.

The current rostering in this department it is 7.00am to 1.00am, but with the change we will need to roster one staff member between 1.00am to 7.00am (or 2.00 am to 6.00am).

The Laboratory Manager has informed staff of this proposed change by email on 20 August 2021 providing staff with a draft roster which would see staff working this shift once per fortnight. The manager has requested feedback from staff but to date has not received any feedback or objection.

The current view is that this will need to be maintained during the current surge and while the hospital has requested this service.

If you have any queries please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Siobhan Cunliffe
Human Resources Manager
NSW Health Pathology East