

10 November 2022

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

Dear Gerard

This letter is to advise NSW Health Pathology Molecular Microbiology Liverpool is currently reviewing roster hours.

Prior to COVID-19 the hours of rosters in the laboratory were:

- *Out of Flu Season:* 7.00 am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday and 8.30 am to 5.00 pm on weekends
- *In Flu Season:* 7.00 am to 10.00 pm 7 days per week

During COVID-19 and Post COVID-19 the hours of rosters in the laboratory were:

- 7.00 am to 10.30 pm 7 days per week (From April 2020 – July 2020, and from February 2023 till date)
- 7.00 am to 11.30 pm 7 days per week (From August 2020 – January 2023)

This laboratory was key to COVID-19 specimen testing from 2019 to 2022 and while the number of specimens has declined the LHD are still requiring patients to have a COVID swab prior to being transferred to the wards. This continuation of testing means that there are higher numbers of specimens to test by this laboratory and the laboratory continues to be required to roster staff up to 10.30pm to ensure these specimens are tested in a suitable timeframe.

NSW Health Pathology has consulted formally with most staff in relation to maintaining these hours. The laboratory has agreed to review the roster hours post flu season 2024 to establish whether the extended hours are still required.

NSW Health Pathology met with the staff on Tuesday 14 November 2023 in relation to the continued hours until 10.30pm 7 days per week and confirming that the rosters and the specimen numbers will be reviewed post flu season 2024.

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

Yours sincerely



Siobhan Cunliffe  
**Associate Director of HR Metro**