

25 August 2025

Kia ora

Further NZNO strike action planned for 2 and 4 September

New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) members employed by Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora are planning further nationwide strikes, from 7am to 11pm on both 2 and 4 September.

The strikes are planned to take place at all Health NZ hospitals and services where NZNO members are employed.

If the strikes go ahead, our hospitals and emergency departments will remain open to ensure the continued availability of critical health services, but emergency departments will need to be kept for emergencies only.

Patient safety will remain our priority.

- Contingency plans are in place, and we have an agreement with the union to provide life preserving services (LPS) support throughout the strike periods. LPS is determined at a local level and is in place for each Health NZ hospital and service impacted by the strikes.
- All Health NZ emergency departments (EDs) will remain open throughout the strikes, but people should only go to ED if absolutely necessary.
- Please note that patients presenting to emergency departments with non-urgent conditions will likely experience significant delays.
- In spite of our best planning for patient discharge in advance of the strikes, our acute wards will likely be full with patients needing in hospital care.
- All patients will continue to receive safe care.
- People with planned care appointments that are impacted by the strikes are being directly contacted to have these rescheduled for the next available opportunity.
- Unless contacted and told otherwise, people should continue to attend their appointments during the strikes.

Our primary care and community sector partners should continue to refer urgent cases into hospital in the usual way for emergency treatment. But please note that contingency plans will be in place during the strikes and so, please would you advise your patients accordingly.

Our local Health NZ teams have communicated all of the above directly with local providers, but we would appreciate your support in sharing this information with your members via your own communication channels ahead of the planned strikes.

We really value the hard work and dedication of our staff and remain focused on reaching a settlement with NZNO to avoid any further disruption to patients and the wider health system.

Ngā mihi nui,

Prof Dame Helen Stokes-Lampard (she/her)
National Chief Medical Officer