

27 March 2020

Dear Members



The New Zealand Institute of Medical Laboratory Science (NZIMLS) wishes to inform members of the continuation of services during this extraordinary event in our history.

We should feel proud of the efforts of our members and the essential work we do to assist in the health of our country and be reassured that this work has been publically recognised by many officials including the Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and the Director-General of Health Dr Ashley Bloomfield. Of course, the approximate 1,500 COVID-19 tests being completed daily, although incredibly important, is just a small part of the usual 200,000 tests that are completed on a routine day in New Zealand. However, this is not routine, and we ask all our members, our non-member colleagues, technicians, clerical staff and their families to be safe and follow the recommendation of their employers and experts.

As you know many of our planned educational events have been postponed or cancelled. Other parts of the core business will continue to go ahead.

It is our expectation that the QMLT examination will be offered this year, with the examination being held in November. The NZIMLS will be communicating with the Examiners and Moderators and providing some extra guidance material to assist them in completing the tasks required to provide a quality examination paper. Please ensure potential candidates in your laboratories apply to the NZIMLS prior to the cut-off deadline of **20 May 2020** using the NZIMLS website application form.

CPD requirements continue as per normal and members may have to find other means to acquire their points. The MSC have stated they will be sympathetic to practitioners if this goes for a long period. The NZIMLS Journal will continue to be published and the Journal questionnaire offered as per normal. Jillian Broadbent, the NZIMLS CPD coordinator, will be communicating with members in the upcoming weeks on some of the other ways CPD points can be achieved.

Finally, both Fran van Til (03 313 4761 or 021 210 8134) and Sharon Tozer (021 266 1908) are available by phone or email if members have any enquires.

On behalf of the NZIMLS Executive and Council, stay safe and be kind to one another.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Barnett', is positioned above the typed name.

Tony Barnett
Secretary / Treasurer NZIMLS
Microbiology Department, Nelson Hospital