

13 March 2026

Dear Colleagues,

Temporary Suspension of *Helicobacter* Antigen Testing

We are writing to inform you that, due to an unforeseen supply issue with the *Helicobacter pylori* stool antigen test kits, we are temporarily unable to process *Helicobacter* antigen requests within NHS Lothian.

Our supplier has advised that replacement kits are expected to be available by 8 April 2026. We are actively monitoring the situation, and if stock becomes available earlier, we will resume testing as soon as possible. A further communication will be sent once normal service has been restored.

During this temporary suspension, we kindly ask that you refrain from sending *Helicobacter* antigen samples to the laboratory, as we will be unable to process them. If samples are already on the way to the laboratory, these will be stored until testing can be resumed. If testing is considered urgent then please contact the laboratory on 01506 523080 to arrange expedited testing.

For clinical guidance on the management of dyspepsia and *Helicobacter pylori*, please refer to guidance on RefHelp:

<https://apps.nhslothian.scot/refhelp/guidelines/gastrointestinal/dyspepsia/>
<https://apps.nhslothian.scot/refhelp/guidelines/gastrointestinal/helicobacter-pylori/>

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding and cooperation while we work to resolve this issue.

If you have any questions or require further advice, please contact either Linda Mulhern (linda.mulhern@nhs.scot) or Lewis Stewart (lewis.stewart@nhs.scot).

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