

# COVID-19 DAILY SITUATION REPORT



Thunder Bay Regional  
Health Sciences  
Centre

## Wednesday, March 25, 2020

The use and availability of Personal Protective Equipment is weighing heavily on everyone's mind. This is completely understandable, and a priority for the Incident Management Team. We are all concerned. A question and answer session with a focus on PPE was held today with the LEAP (Leadership Enhancement and Performance) group. During the session, questions raised by both staff were answered, empowering the Hospital leaders to share consistent, up-to-date, an accurate information with their teams. The amount of PPE information circulating on the intranet is causing confusion and anxiety. Every effort will be made to educate staff of current PPE policy and practices, as well as the supply situation. Anyone with questions regarding PPE should ask their manager.

To support patients through visitor restrictions and imminent changes to essential care partners, our Hospital will provide free telephone and television services to all inpatients. Implementation is expected to begin Thursday. In addition to enhancing access to loved ones and a source of distraction, this measure is anticipated to reduce call volumes to nursing stations and switchboard.

Today, the Interprofessional Education team conducted a mock Code Blue (adult cardiac arrest) drill in which the patient was a presumed COVID-19 patient. Drills prepare our health care providers to respond to critical situations specifically in the COVID-19 pandemic environment, with full PPE.

The details regarding Essential Care Partners (ECP) are being finalized. The aim is to share tomorrow, Thursday, March 26, the definitions of ECPs and the process to support their access to patients, with implementation to begin Friday morning.

Some questions have been raised regarding restricting staff access to the Emergency Department (ED) entrance. The change was made to enhance your protection by reducing the potential for exposure to infection. As with every recent decision, your safety is the primary concern. Each new measure has implications. In this case, it means some staff have to walk farther from their designated parking lots, sometimes in the dark. Anyone with related safety concerns should contact Security to be escorted to and from the parking lot, or make arrangements to meet with colleagues and walk together while practicing physical distancing. At this time, due to capacity, it is not feasible to reassign parking lots. Staff may continue to use other entrances as outlined in previous memos.

COVID-19 Assessment Centre update: As of yesterday, 237 people have been tested. At this time, test results are returned in five to seven days. Our license application to establish COVID-19 testing in the Hospital's lab was approved. The necessary equipment has been ordered and, upon arrival, will be quality tested. The aim is to be operational by mid-April. Once established, the on-site lab will enable quicker turn-around of local COVID-19 test results.

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The Hospital's Board of Directors will meet virtually on April 1. Discussions and decision-making will be limited to urgent matters. As a result, the meeting will not be webcast.

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For questions about COVID-19 testing criteria, please contact the TBDHU's Infectious Disease Program at 807-625-5900 or toll free at 1-888-294-6630.

Local COVID-19 case status: <https://www.tbdhu.com/coronavirus>

Provincial COVID-19 case status: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus#section-0>

Canada COVID-19 case status: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

COVID-19 Daily Situation Report videos: <http://tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information>

All Hospital COVID-19 updates are available on the iNtranet at <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information/>