

COVID-19 DAILY SITUATION REPORT



Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
Centre

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

There are three confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Thunder Bay. This includes one patient with confirmed COVID-19 in our Hospital. In addition, presumptive COVID-19 cases are being treated at our Hospital.

The Incident Management Team is pleased to welcome Meaghan Sharp, interim Chief Nursing Executive, as a specialist member. Nurses make up the largest component of our Hospital's staff, and are integral to our COVID-19 response and the provision of safe, quality care to all patients. Meaghan will provide the essential link between the Incident Management Team and nursing staff.

Screening at entrances is imperative to ensure the safety of all patients, their essential care partners, staff and professional staff. Because anyone's status can change at any time, consistent and complete screening must be performed. While it can be frustrating to go through the same process on a daily basis, please continue to be patient and polite with screening staff. In fact, now more than ever, we must all show each other kindness, empathy and courtesy, as well support each other in our respective roles. We are in this together.

In response to the evolving COVID-19 situation in our community, new medical directives regarding COVID-19 testing are in final approval stage and will be issued shortly via memo. The medical directives describe the related criteria and procedures that apply to community members and staff regarding how we determine at our COVID-19 Assessment Centre whether or not a person needs to be swab tested. The new directives will expand the number of tests performed because they include people returning from anywhere outside of Northwestern Ontario on or after March 30 and exposure of greater than 15 minutes without Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, in addition to symptoms of fever of 38 degrees and greater with a new or worsening cough and/ or difficulty breathing.

(PPE Update: New directives were issued yesterday in a joint statement by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, and the Ontario Nurses Association. This directive is currently under review by the Incident Management Team, with the aim to provide clear and comprehensive directions specific to our Hospital as soon as possible. PPE is an issue of great priority and your patience as decisions are finalized based on changing information and requirements is appreciated.

Given that this is a global pandemic, information comes from countless sources at a rapid pace. This can be confusing, because information is inconsistent, and changes frequently. When it comes to your role in our Hospital's COVID-19 response, please refer only to directions and decisions issued by our Incident Management Team. Changes in practice will be communicated via memo from Incident Manager Dr. Stewart Kennedy, or designate.

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Decisions are made in collaboration with key health system partners at all levels. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to staying informed.

COVID-19 testing update: As of yesterday (Monday, March 30), 311 tests have been performed at the COVID-19 Assessment Centre and in our Hospital.

Managers are reminded to print and post COVID-19 Daily Situation Reports for staff access.

Please forward any questions/concerns to your supervisor.

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/>