

COVID-19 UPDATE

Keeping You Safe



To: All Hospital and Health Research Institute staff, professional staff, and Board

From: Dr. Stewart Kennedy, COVID-19 Incident Manager

Date: March 17, 2020

RE: **Postponement of non-essential care and elective surgery**

Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre is implementing its pandemic plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The health and safety of all community members is our utmost priority.

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, clinical demand prioritization of clinical services is essential. Based on recommendations of the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, **our Hospital will cancel elective surgeries and other non-essential services, including most outpatient services as of March 20, 2020 at 3:30 pm.**

Those who require urgent health care will always receive it at our Hospital.

Planning for this careful ramp down of non-essential services is underway. Dr. Zaki Ahmed, Chief of Staff, is leading this work. More information will be shared as it is confirmed.

Patients who are impacted will be contacted directly by their physicians or the Hospital. Rescheduling of services will be determined at a later time, as the situation evolves.

For more information, please contact your manager.

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

For more information about COVID-19, please contact the Thunder Bay District Health Unit at 1-888-294-6630 or www.tbdhu.com/coronavirus. More information is also available at <https://files.ontario.ca/moh-coronavirus-info-sheet-english-2020-02-18.pdf>.