

COVID-19 UPDATE

Keeping You Safe



To: All Hospital and Health Research Institute staff, professional staff and volunteers
From: Dr. Stewart Kennedy, EVP, Regional Programs, Clinical Supports & Medical Affairs
Date: March 14, 2020
RE: **Rational Use of Personal Protective Equipment**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the demand for personal protective equipment may exceed our Hospital's current supply. The health and safety of patients, their families, staff, professional staff, scientists, volunteers, and the community is our utmost priority. As such, we need to **protect our personal protective equipment (PPE)** in order to maintain sufficient supply.

PPE should only be used based on the risk of exposure to prevent supply shortages. Recommended practices for PPE use are to be followed while being cognizant about conserving supply. Please see below for Public Health Ontario's Recommendation Guidelines for PPE for COVID-19. PPE should not be worn in nursing stations and public areas.

To **ensure that adequate supply of PPE as well as other resources** such as toilet paper, masks, gowns, etc., all departments must ensure items are readily accessible for staff to use and also stored in a manner that **prevents access to anyone who is not a health care provider**.

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to safe, quality care.

Public Health Ontario's Recommended Guidelines for PPE for COVID-19 are as follows.

For staff conducting screening:

- surgical/procedure mask;
- gown and gloves;
- eye protection (goggles or face shield).

For aerosol generating medical procedures (i.e. endo tracheal intubation, CPR, open airway suctioning, bronchoscopy, surgery/autopsy, sputum induction, non invasive positive pressure ventilation for acute respiratory failure, high flow oxygen therapy):

- N95 respirator;
- gown/gloves;
- eye protection (face shield or goggles);
- negative pressure rooms.

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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>.

Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre is a leader in Patient and Family Centred Care and a research and teaching hospital proudly affiliated with **Lakehead University, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and Confederation College**.

Le Centre régional des sciences de la santé de Thunder Bay, un hôpital d'enseignement et de recherche, est reconnu comme un leader dans la prestation de soins et de services aux patients et aux familles et est fier de son affiliation à l'**université Lakehead, à l'École de médecine du Nord de l'Ontario et au collège Confédération**.

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En santé
ensemble