

COVID-19 UPDATE

Keeping You Safe



Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
Centre

To: All Hospital and Health Research Institute staff, and volunteers
From: Dr. Stewart Kennedy, EVP, Regional Programs, Clinical Supports & Medical Affairs
Date: March 13, 2020
RE: **Travel Restriction Recommendations Update**

To protect your health and safety, travel restriction recommendations have been implemented as part of our Hospital's pandemic plan in response to COVID-19 pandemic.

Effective immediately, all non-essential work-related staff travel must be cancelled. This includes travel within the province.

All travel to Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre by international guests for work-related purposes, including anyone hosting delegations, meetings, conferences or external student/observer placements, must be cancelled until further notice. Exceptions may be made for essential guests and will be determined by the Incident Management System team on a case by case basis.

Travel restriction recommendations for personal purposes and out of country travel remain the same. All non-essential travel is strongly discouraged as per the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Ontario. Please refer to the previous memo "COVID IMS and Staff Travel" for more details. Please note changes regarding Types of Travel Discouraged, as per updates to the Government of Canada Travel Health Notices. Staff should refer to the link below for more information.

All employees must inform Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) **prior to international travel departure and prior to returning to work at 684-6212**. This is intended to ensure that the hospital has the necessary information to respond if the COVID-19 case definition is updated in response to changing circumstances.

To help prevent the risk of spread of COVID-19, all non-essential meetings scheduled to be held at our Hospital must also be cancelled. Determination of what meetings are essential is at the discretion of the committee or meeting chair. However, alternative meeting options, such as teleconference or videoconference, are strongly encouraged.

If you have questions regarding travel restriction recommendations, please contact your manager and Occupational Health and Safety.

Travel restriction recommendations can change frequently and will be updated as the situation evolves. Regular updates will be shared as they occur.

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Resources:

Government of Canada COVID-19 Travel Advice <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice.html>

Government of Canada COVID-19 Affected Areas Travel Health Notices: <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/health-safety/travel-health-notice#risklevels>

All Hospital COVID-19 updates, as well as instructions on how to set up a teleconference or videoconference 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>.