

# COVID-19 UPDATE

## Keeping You Safe



Thunder Bay Regional  
Health Sciences  
Centre

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 13, 2020  
RE: **Visitor restrictions to enhance safety for all**

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The health and safety of patients, their families, staff, professional staff, scientists, volunteers, and the community is our top priority. That is why Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre has implemented a measure to protect all from the spread of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

To help prevent the risk or spread of COVID-19, **visitors are not permitted at the Hospital**, including the Transitional Care Unit at Hogarth Riverview Manor, effective immediately and until further notice. One care partner, designated by the patient, is welcome at all times. A care partner supports and participates in the care of the patient and is a valuable member of the care team. Patients are to identify who their care partner is to their nurse, who will then provide the care partner with a wrist band.

Limited exceptions to the number of care partners permitted may apply to end of life, paediatric, or Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) patients, as well as other extenuating circumstances. Any exceptions are to be determined by the unit manager or delegate.

At this time, visitor restrictions do not apply to Hospital volunteers and learners. Please note that further restrictions will be implemented as the situation develops. You will be notified of any changes.

This measure is in place for your safety and the safety of our community. Although precautions are being taken, the risk of COVID-19 to Ontarians remains low.

Our Hospital is prepared to effectively manage COVID-19 and to help anyone who may have come in contact with it. We, along with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, Ontario Health North and other partners, have robust plans to monitor for, detect and, if needed, isolate any cases of the virus.

To protect yourself and others from illness causing germs, please ensure you follow these everyday precautions:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Practice proper respiratory etiquette (covering your nose/mouth when coughing or sneezing)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth

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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- Avoid contact with people who are ill
- Stay home if you are experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness
- It is still recommended to get your flu shot if you haven't already as the flu virus is still circulating in the community
- Seek medical care if required and disclose any recent travel history

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](http://www.tbdhu.com/coronavirus). More information is also available at <https://files.ontario.ca/moh-coronavirus-info-sheet-english-2020-02-18.pdf>.

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