**Wednesday, April 1, 2020**

The Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Working Group is carefully developing recommendations regarding implementation at our Hospital of new PPE directives. The directives were issued yesterday by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, and the Ontario Nurses Association. The role of the working group is to recommend clear and comprehensive directions specific to our Hospital. PPE is an issue of great priority and your patience as decisions are finalized based on changing information and requirements is appreciated.

The Management of Novel Respiratory Infections policy & procedure is posted to the COVID-19 iNtanet page for reference. All staff and professional staff are encouraged to become familiar with the direction for the prevention, surveillance, and management of novel respiratory infections.

Questions regarding Infection Control are welcome. To support Infection Prevention & Control to address questions efficiently while also performing priority duties, please direct questions to your supervisor. Managers are asked to submit questions infectioncontrol@tbh.net.

Patient decanting in collaboration with system partners has created space in our Hospital. Capacity is currently at approximately 67%, which enable accommodation of patients in case of a COVID-19 outbreak.

Thank you for your commitment and willingness to do what is necessary for the health and safety of our community during the COVID-19 pandemic. In recognition of your dedication, parking will be free to all staff and professional staff effective April 1 and until further notice. You are still required to swipe your identification card and park in your assigned parking lot. Free parking will also be extended to all patients and their essential care partners beginning April 2. The patient/visitor lots continue to be reserved for patients and essential care partners. Please see today’s memo for further details. Parking fee refunds must be completed in person at Patient Billing, and cannot be processed over the phone.

Please be aware of reduced Spiritual Care services. On-call staff will not be working until further notice. On-site service is available daily from 09:00 to 17:00. To access Spiritual Care services, please contact Lisa Laitinen-Egbuchulam Friday-Tuesday at 684-6236 or pager 624-4422, and Michael Robinson Monday-Friday at 684-6235, pager 624-4828. Note that Meditech/EMR referrals will be picked up daily. Roman Catholic on-call Priests are available for Sacraments of the Sick/last rites and can be reached 24/7 at 632-5461.

COVID-19 testing update: As of yesterday (Tuesday, March 31), 323 tests have been performed at the COVID-19 Assessment Centre and in our Hospital.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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/>