

COVID-19 DAILY SITUATION REPORT



Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
Centre

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

COVID-19 testing update: 57 tests were performed yesterday (Tuesday, April 14) at our Assessment Centre and in our Hospital. This is the highest amount of tests completed in a single day since the Assessment Centre opened and is a result of expanded testing criteria. Increased testing enables monitoring of those who frequently come into contact with community members, supports confirmation of front-line staff status sooner following possible exposure to the virus, and improves data regarding COVID-19 presence in the community.

Currently, our Hospital team is providing care to two patients with confirmed COVID-19 and 34 presumptive cases. To protect the safety of patients, staff and professional staff, presumptive cases of low clinical suspicion are not admitted to the COVID-19 Care Unit. As of this morning, there are seven patients admitted to the Covid-19 Care Unit. In case of an influx of patients infected with COVID-19, a team is planning for expansion of the dedicated COVID-19 Care Unit within the Hospital, as well as a field hospital. Decisions will include appropriate triggers for expansion.

We are relieved that 44 staff who were self-isolating at home due to potential exposure have returned to work. The COVID-19 test results of the associated patient were returned negative. The emotions experienced by the staff who were impacted staff can only be imagined. Thank you for your diligence and professionalism.

The expanded COVID-19 testing criteria applies to screening at Hospital entrances. This does have an impact on staffing, as more staff are denied entrance. However, due to low occupancy and staff redeployment, the delivery of safe, quality care and Hospital operations are not compromised. On-site processing of COVID-19 tests will significantly reduce the turn-around time for results and enable staff to return to work sooner. We remain optimistic that the necessary testing supplies will be made available.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) update: Some new supplies of procedure and N95 masks have arrived. Combined with existing PPE and ongoing conservation processes, the current supply enables appropriate protection for a minimum of four weeks. Cloth masks are available for staff who cannot maintain the two metre physical distancing while working.

Processes are in place to prevent exposure of staff and professional staff to the COVID-19 virus. In addition, everyone is expected to maintain priority practices of frequent hand washing and physical distancing of two meters to reduce the risk of exposure to the virus. Precautionary measures are implemented to protect the health and safety of all. This includes procedures in place in the case that a staff or professional member comes in contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case without proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Details will be provided via memo.

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The dedication and professionalism of staff and professional staff throughout the evolving COVID-19 pandemic is inspiring. Please show your appreciation by sharing a 'Thumbs Up' about a fellow staff member for their dedication to patient care during these challenging times. Submissions are shared with the COVID-19 Incident Management Team and posted on the Daily Informed Newsletter.

Here are some of the 'Thumbs Up' stories received to date.

"A thumbs up to our Interprofessional Educators who have stepped up to provide much needed education and simulation to not only our own staff but also to those in the region."

"I just wanted to give a thumbs up to Tracey and Melissa in the staffing office for all their efforts over the long weekend to staff the units. There were several shortages throughout the weekend due to the COVID-19 pandemic and they worked tirelessly to adequately and safely staff the Adult Mental Health Unit (and all the other units I'm sure). They were really helpful and friendly while working under stressful conditions. The Adult Mental Health Unit wants them to know how much we appreciate their efforts and dedication."

"Thumbs up to the IT/IS team for all their help getting me switched over to the newer version of Citrix. The staff are always pleasant and keen to help. I'm sure they have heard it all but they never make me feel stupid when I ask a question. Thanks team!"

All previously issued COVID-19 Daily Situation Reports are available at <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information/past-daily-updates/>.

Please forward any questions/concerns to your supervisor.

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/>