

# COVID-19 DAILY SITUATION REPORT



Thunder Bay Regional  
Health Sciences  
Centre

## Friday, April 17, 2020

COVID-19 testing update: Testing at our COVID-19 Assessment Centre and in our Hospital continues to climb. 67 tests were performed yesterday (Thursday, April 16), for a total of 879 to date.

Currently, our Hospital team is providing care to three patients with confirmed COVID-19 and 19 presumptive cases. As of this morning, there are eight patients admitted to the Covid-19 Care Unit.

The health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients and the community is our utmost priority. In addition to following all priority practices of frequent hand washing and physical distancing of two meters, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements and procedures reduce the risk of exposure to the virus.

Despite these measures, incidences of staff exposure do occur. The primary cause is the changing status of a patient during the course of admission. This can happen when a COVID-19 swab is ordered for a patient based on the development of symptoms or other reasons. Once the swab is ordered, the patient is considered a presumptive case, and therefore staff who had contact throughout the course of admission are considered to have been exposed to potential COVID-19. Such instances are taken very seriously. Updated response procedures, based on evidence, will be provided.

Processes are also in place to guide steps taken when staff are off work due to failing Hospital screening, either in person, via the online screening tool, or after calling in sick. When this occurs, Occupational Health & Safety contacts the employee. Usually, to err on the side of caution, the employee is directed for a COVID-19 test.

COVID-19 screening at Hospital entrances prioritizes your health and safety. Please note that the screening algorithm has been updated as per the new medical directive for testing requirements. Effective tomorrow (Saturday, April 18), the screening question will reflect the change to one of seven symptoms as a screening criteria. As before, staff who answer yes to any of the screening questions will be instructed to go home, self-isolate, contact your Staffing Department (if applicable), your Department/Manager AND Occupational Health & Safety.

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) remains a priority. The health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients and the community is our utmost priority. That, along with scientifically based medical directives, drive all decisions surrounding PPE. While efforts to conserve Hospital PPE through the use of personal PPE are appreciated, staff are strongly encouraged to use Hospital-provided PPE. Use of personally owned or purchased PPE must adhere to the guidelines. Please refer to the memo distributed today for more information.

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Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board will be offering Emergency Child Care Services to critical essential workers who have no other child care options. Centres will be located in the City of Thunder Bay and Geraldton. Services will be provincially funded at no cost to families, but spaces will be limited. Applications are scheduled to open today, Friday, April 17, 2020. Please visit <http://www.tbdssab.ca/child-care-services/>

These are challenging times and it is understandable that some staff may feel anxious. Resources are in place to support you. Please visit <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information/staff-wellness-resources/> for more information.

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.

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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/>