**Thursday, April 2, 2020**

There are five new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the City of Thunder Bay. This brings the total confirmed cases to date to eight. Seven are isolating at home and one is admitted to our Hospital.

The Thunder Bay District Health Unit website will issue real-time updates regarding COVID-19 case information at [www.tbdhu.com](http://www.tbdhu.com).

The new cases were confirmed by test results that were returned in just three days. Improvements in COVID-19 test result turn-around time are due to a provincial objective to eliminate backlogs at test labs. Faster test results enable earlier appropriate responses by Public Health as well as health care providers.

Efforts to reduce the spread must continue. The diligence of staff, professional staff and members of our community matters more than any preparation measures. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to physical distancing, hand hygiene and all other infection control practices.

The presence of confirmed COVID-19 cases in our community may cause people to avoid coming to our Hospital for urgent care. Our Emergency Department is, and always will be, available to those who need urgent care.

The Hospital’s Management of Novel Respiratory Infections policy & procedure describes recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use for suspected or confirmed COVID-19. These are evidenced-based recommendations formulated on the best science available at the time of release and are designed for the protection of health care workers. All staff and privileged staff are required to follow Hospital policy. Decision and details regarding PPE use outside of direct exposure will be confirmed and shared as soon as possible.

The Hospital’s Board of Directors met last evening and were briefed on our pandemic plan implementation in response to COVID-19. They were unanimously impressed by the extraordinary level of professionalism and commitment applied to the volume and quality of preparation. Board Chair Matt Simeoni, on behalf of the entire Board of Directors, expresses his sincere gratitude to all staff and professional staff.

Leaders of our Hospital collaborate closely with health system partners at all levels. This activity enhances a coordinated COVID-19 response for maximum effectiveness. Hospital President & CEO Jean Bartkowiak participates on the Ontario Health North COVID-19 Regional Steering Committee. The City of Thunder Bay Municipal Emergency Control Group/External Partners meetings are attended by Hospital Incident Management Team members Amanda Bjorn and Peter Myllymaa.

COVID-19 testing update: As of yesterday (Wednesday, April 1), 330 tests have been performed at the COVID-19 Assessment Centre and in our Hospital.

Managers are reminded to print and post COVID-19 Daily Situation Reports for staff access.

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/>