**Saturday, March 21, 2020**

It cannot be overstated that the dedication and positive attitudes of staff and professional staff in all areas is nothing short of remarkable. Despite intense pressure and constant change, our team proves itself – over and over again – to be exceptional. You are valued.

Our Interprofessional Education team developed a video with education on Proper PPE and Precautions for Novel Respiratory Infections. To view the video, visit our Covid-19 Information page at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUJUH1ID8PA&feature=youtu.be>.

COVID-19 Assessment Centre update: Yesterday (Friday, March 20), 37 people were seen, and 25 of them tested. There are no longer back-logs due to call volumes to the Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU). Next-day appointments to our COVID-19 Assessment Centre are booked through them.

Screening at all Hospital entrances improves daily, based on new learnings and input. This includes changes to the online self-screening tool for staff and professional staff. Your patience is appreciated, as is your respect for the screening process and staff.

Signs which promote social distancing were provided by the TBDHU and are now posted throughout our Hospital. Education has been provided to support observance of social distancing in the Hospital environment. All social distancing efforts are appreciated.

In addition to participating in screening and social distancing, all staff are urged to make wise decisions that reduce the spread of infection. Do not consume food or beverages in clinical areas.

As a result of the lower-than-normal capacity at our Hospital, staff of the 3TM unit will be redeployed to other areas.

Yesterday, the Ontario government issued a recommendation that hospitals allow essential visitors only until further notice. The Ministry of Health identifies essential visitors as those who have a patient who is dying or very ill, a parent/guardian of an ill child or youth, a visitor of a patient undergoing surgery, or a woman giving birth. Leaders at our Hospital will be engaged to assess the impact of this and to develop a plan for roll-out as appropriate.

Tbaytel expanded internet bandwidth at our Hospital. This increases our ability to serve patients remotely, meet virtually, and conduct other online activity while practicing social distancing. Tbaytel has also loaned to our Hospital extra cellular phones during this period. We are grateful to have community partners supporting our efforts.

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/>