

COVID-19 DAILY SITUATION REPORT



Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
Centre

Sunday, March 22, 2020

Our Hospital is taking every measure to protect people who must be in the Hospital. A team is developing processes that enhance infection control by reducing the movement of patients throughout the Hospital. The focus is on safety, sensitivity, and consideration of the individual needs and circumstances of each patient. More information will be provided when it is available.

COVID-19 Assessment Centre update: Yesterday (Saturday, March 21), 44 people were seen, with 42 of them tested. Our Hospital is communicating with health care providers to ensure consistency in referrals to the COVID-19 Assessment Centre at our Hospital. For access to the Assessment Centre, all people must first contact the Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) or Telehealth. This is the case even for those who see their own family physician or nurse practitioner, or visit a walk-in clinic. At this time, next-day appointments to the Assessment Centre are available through TBDHU.

Yesterday, the Ontario government announced a new order to ensure health care resources are available to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and keep individuals and families safe. This temporary order would give hospitals the ability to be nimble to effectively respond to, prevent and alleviate an outbreak of COVID-19.

Hospitals may carrying out measures such as:

- Redeploying staff within different locations in (or between) facilities of the hospital;
- Changing the assignment of work, including assigning non-bargaining unit employees or contractors to perform bargaining unit work;
- Changing the scheduling of work or shift assignments;
- Deferring or cancelling vacations, absences or other leaves, regardless of whether such vacations, absences or leaves are established by statute, regulation, agreement or otherwise;
- Employing extra part-time or temporary staff or contractors, including for the purpose of performing bargaining unit work; and
- Using volunteers to perform work, including to perform bargaining work.

When utilized by hospitals, these redeployment plans temporarily supersede the provisions of a collective agreement, including lay-off, seniority/service or bumping provisions. Our Hospital will invoke these provisions only in extreme circumstances.

The reduction of non-essential services reduces risks and increases our Hospital's ability to respond to COVID-19. Updated information regarding outpatient services is available on the Hospital website and iNtranet. Please direct anyone seeking details on service status to www.tbrhsc.net.

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Implementation of the work from home strategy for appropriate Hospital staff will begin on Monday, March 23. This measure helps to protect the health system and its workers from COVID-19, while ensuring that critical health services continue to operate.

Planning is underway to minimize the movement of health care providers among health care spaces. The results will inform a plan to protect health care providers without compromising care. More information will be shared as it is confirmed.

Health care providers working in the community need to be protected. Anyone visiting a family physician or health clinic should self-screen in advance. Public Health Ontario has a self-screening resource at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment/#q0>

In this confusing time, it is important that people find information from reliable sources. Looking to get the straight story? Get COVID-19 myth busters from the World Health Organization, and help to share credible information.
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>

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/>