

COVID-19 UPDATE

Keeping You Safe



Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
Centre

To: All Hospital and Health Research Institute staff and professional staff

From: Dr. Stewart Kennedy, COVID-19 Incident Manager

Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020

RE: **Distribution of Cloth Masks**

The health and safety of patients, staff and professional staff is our utmost priority. Several weeks ago, our Hospital ordered cloth masks made to strict specifications for use by staff. The cloth masks will be provided to staff this week. Canada's Chief Public Health Officer advises Canadians to wear a non-medical face mask (cloth mask), as an additional measure to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 when proper physical distancing is not possible.

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.

It is strongly recommended that all staff provided with a cloth mask wear the cloth mask when unable to maintain appropriate physical distancing of two meters and only remove it in order to DON appropriate PPE as per clinical risk assessments and Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) policies.

At this time cloth masks are not mandatory. Staff who do not intend to wear a cloth mask should not take one. Masks will be provided by staff members' primary manager, along with paper bags and storage/washing instructions.

Staff will be provided with one cloth mask. An additional mask may be distributed if supply allows.

Additional cloth masks will be delivered each day until the full supply is received. Masks will be distributed to managers based on a predetermined priority list.

Staff (IT, Maintenance, Biomed etc) entering an area where physical distancing cannot be practiced and who have not yet been provided with a cloth mask will be given a procedure mask by the department for which they are providing service.

Staff are to care for their cloth masks in accordance with the attached Care and Cleaning Instructions. Cloth masks must be washed daily.

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Evidence-based decisions and responses are applied to continuously changing circumstances. As such, this guideline document may be updated from time to time to comply with the best available evidence. You will be informed of any updates.

For more information, please contact your manager.

All Hospital COVID-19 updates are available on the iNtranet at <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information/>.

For more information about COVID-19, please contact the Thunder Bay District Health Unit at 1-888-294-6630 or www.tbdhu.com/coronavirus. More information is also available at <https://files.ontario.ca/moh-coronavirus-info-sheet-english-2020-02-18.pdf>.