

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: Wednesday, April 8, 2020

RE: **Dedicated COVID-19 Care Unit**

The health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients and the community is our utmost priority. In order to best prepare our Hospital for an influx of COVID-19 infected patients, unit **3A will be the dedicated COVID-19 Care Unit.**

Establishing a dedicated COVID-19 Care Unit is an important measure we take to prepare for a possible influx of COVID-19 infected patients. It is an extremely challenging new reality for staff and professional staff who will be assigned to this unit. This pandemic has reached unprecedented magnitude; as health care professionals, we never anticipated such a health care crisis. Yet, health care providers are the most qualified to handle this situation. You are needed, you are valued, and you are supported. Staff and professional staff who will be assigned to the COVID-19 Care Unit will be provided education, as well as psychological, emotional and other support as required.

The commencement date of the COVID-19 Care Unit will be determined by the Incident Management Team, and based on logistics, education delivery and other factors. It is anticipated to be initiated within three to five days.

To dedicate the COVID-19 Care Unit, patients currently on 3A will be transferred to other appropriate units and physical adjustments to the unit will be made to ensure the most appropriate care environment for COVID-19 infected patients, as well as the safety of staff and professional staff.

Unit 3A was selected as the most appropriate location for the COVID-19 Care Unit the following reasons:

Isolation requirements:

Unit 3A allows for most COVID-19 infected patients to be in private rooms, or cohorted, without the need for a HEPA filter.

Ease of expansion:

Based on lessons learned from other cities and their experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic, we must be prepared to expand the COVID-19 Care Unit should the need arise. Unit 3A could be expanded into Unit 3B if necessary.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Keeping You Safe



Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
Centre

Proximity to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU):

If required, patients could be rushed to the ICU without the delay caused by waiting for an elevator. If a protected Code Blue is required, ICU staff can get to 3A quickly.

Ease of conversion:

3A does not require the disruption of staff and/or administration offices. Current administration can remain in place.

More information regarding the dedicated COVID-19 Care Unit will be provided as it becomes available. Your continued patience and dedication during the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic is greatly appreciated.

For more information or to discuss any concerns, please contact your Manager.

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

Please contact TBDHU for more information regarding COVID-19 screening 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>