

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: Monday, April 13, 2020

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

The health and safety of all patients, staff and professional staff is our priority. The experiences of other countries demonstrate that a dedicated unit for the care of COVID-19 patients is a best practice to reduce the spread of infection.

The dedicated COVID-19 Care Unit (3A) at our Hospital will be operational today, Monday, April 13. Patients who are confirmed or highly suspected to be infected by the COVID-19 virus will be relocated to the COVID-19 Care Unit. Should there be an influx of COVID-19 infected patients, the dedicated unit will expand to a secondary unit, as per our pandemic plan.

Over the past several days, staff and professional staff assigned to the unit participated in discussions and education sessions, including extensive simulations. The team is well prepared, and I have every confidence in their expertise. The dedication of the COVID-19 Care Unit team is exemplary. Under stressful, emotional circumstances, the prevailing priority continues to be the safe, quality care of patients. I could not be more proud.

I know this is a demanding assignment. Our Hospital is committed to meeting the needs of staff and professional staff during this challenging time. A comprehensive plan is in development to provide psychological, emotional and other support as required.

Restricted access to the unit will be difficult for family members. No care partners may enter the dedicated COVID-19 Care Unit, under any circumstance. This heart-wrenching reality is not in line with our Patient and Family Centred Care philosophy.

Keeping seriously ill patients away from their loved ones is one of the many cruelties of the COVID-19 virus. This restriction is for everyone's protection. Across the globe, this pandemic is forcing decisions that would otherwise be considered inhumane.

The best that we can do is provide virtual visitation options and empathy to family members denied the opportunity to be with a loved one at this most difficult time. While our hearts will be with them, our hands will hold those of their loved ones.

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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>

Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre is a leader in Patient and Family Centred Care and a research and teaching hospital proudly affiliated with **Lakehead University, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and Confederation College**.

Le Centre régional des sciences de la santé de Thunder Bay, un hôpital d'enseignement et de recherche, est reconnu comme un leader dans la prestation de soins et de services aux patients et aux familles et est fier de son affiliation à l'**université Lakehead, à l'École de médecine du Nord de l'Ontario et au collège Confédération**.

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En santé
ensemble