

# 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: May 19, 2020

**RE: Mandatory use of masks**

---

The health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients and the community is our utmost priority. As Ontario slowly reopens the economy, we will begin to see more traffic in our Hospital and the possibility of increased community spread. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, **it is now mandatory for all staff and professional staff to wear a mask at all times, except when alone in an office or work space that provides appropriate physical distancing.**

A mask (cloth or procedure) must cover the nose and mouth and is intended to protect others from the spread of droplets. All staff have been provided with cloth masks. Personally owned cloth masks may also be used if staff prefer to do so.

Please refer to the attached document regarding proper care and usage. Paper bags for storing/transporting masks home for washing have been, and will continue to be provided. Please see your manager if you require additional/replacement paper bags.

This decision aligns with the recommendations of Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, our Hospital's Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee, and with feedback received from the COVID-19 Employee Survey.

Please note that wearing cloth masks is to be done in addition to maintaining physical distancing and practicing proper hand hygiene. **Use of PPE for direct patient care remains the same as per previous protocols.**

Thank you for your commitment to safety. We rely on each other to follow all necessary precautions in order to keep ourselves, our patients, and the community safe. Please provide respectful education when you see a coworker not wearing a mask.

Please contact your manager for more information.

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