

COVID-19 UPDATE

Keeping You Safe



Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
Centre

To: All Hospital Staff and Professional Staff

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

Date: July 22, 2020

RE: **Closing of the dedicated COVID-19 Unit**

The dedicated COVID-19 Care Unit opened in early April, 2020 to allow for an influx of COVID-19 infected patients. Patients confirmed or highly suspected to be infected with the COVID-19 virus were provided care in the dedicated unit. Fortunately, Northwestern Ontario avoided outbreaks of COVID-19. As such, **the dedicated COVID-19 Unit on 3A will close on Thursday, July 23, enabling these surgical beds to be better utilized to enhance our inpatient capacity.**

The health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients and the community remains our utmost priority. COVID-19 is still in the community, and new cases are expected in the weeks and months to come. Impacted patients will receive appropriate care in the Hospital's negative pressure isolation rooms.

Any patient on the unit at the time of closure will be relocated to the appropriate negative pressure room on the inpatient units. The admission of a 7th positive or highly suspect cases to hospital will trigger the reopening of the COVID-19 Care Unit. If reopening the unit is required, it will start with the current 13 beds and expand as necessary.

This is a milestone transition in our Hospital's COVID-19 pandemic response and is a testament to the devoted staff and professional staff who were part of this unprecedented activity. Your dedication and professionalism throughout this time is greatly appreciated and admired.

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/>.