

# COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT



Thunder Bay Regional  
Health Sciences  
Centre

**Friday, August 21, 2020**

COVID-19 Status as of 10:40 am

Tests performed yesterday (Assessment Centre and in Hospital)	Tests Performed total (Assessment Centre and in Hospital)	Presumptive Cases in Hospital	Total Positive Cases in Hospital	Positive Cases in ICU	Hospital Occupancy
244	18,493	5	0	0	92.1%

Our Hospital currently has no admitted positive COVID-19 cases.

The Incident Management Team is extremely proud of our Hospital's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The dedication, professionalism and flexibility of staff and professional staff has been, and continues to be, exceptional. As a team, we have learned so much, and together, adapted to a continuously evolving situation. As we look ahead and consider a possible "second wave", we want to be prepared for the worst as we hope for the best. Recognizing that there is always opportunity to improve, on August 18, the COVID-19 Incident Management Team participated in an In Action Review meeting. The purpose was to discuss key themes from stakeholder engagement to inform ongoing planning and activity. Robust discussions were geared to identifying actions to improve the outcome of our ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response, including a possible second wave. Specific action items were developed in the areas of Health Human Resources, Surge Management and Communication, and more details will be provided as they are confirmed.

There has been recent media activity regarding the mandatory masks requirement at our Hospital. The health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients, Care Partners and the community is our utmost priority. Those who require urgent and/or necessary acute care will always receive it at our Hospital. In the current environment, extra precautions are taken to keep everyone safe, including mandatory use of masks. We recognize that there are a very limited number of medical conditions that prevent people from safely wearing masks. In such cases, certain services may be delayed if they are not immediately medically necessary, as determined by a clinical assessment of the circumstance. At the same time, we collaborate with patients and their Care Partners to address individual situations and make improvements.

Alternatives to face masks, such as face shields, may be permitted depending on circumstances. According to the Thunder Bay District Health Unit's website, "a face shield is not a substitute for wearing a face mask as it does not filter respiratory droplets. A face shield may provide additional protection for the wearer against droplets expelled from another person, however these droplets may still be inhaled around the shield. Respiratory droplets expelled by the wearer may escape around the sides of the face shield, which therefore

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provides less protection to others. When wearing a face shield, it is recommended to also wear a properly fitted cloth mask."

On-line booking of appointments for the COVID-19 Assessment Centre is now available. Anyone can book an appointment via our website [www.tbrhsc.net](http://www.tbrhsc.net). Technical difficulties experienced with the telephone line last weekend were quickly resolved. The volume of calls to the Assessment Centre is much higher than anticipated, with approximately 1,000 calls received per day (previous daily volumes were approx. 200). Despite that, approximately 70% of callers wait less than 7 minutes to get through. Congratulations are extended to the Assessment Centre team for their outstanding response. More COVID-19 testing drive-through events will be scheduled to accommodate the community demand.

We are very pleased to welcome some of our valued volunteers back to our Hospital. A new volunteer Way-Finding position was introduced to support patients and Care Partners in the current environment of limited access and movement within the Hospital. Way-Finding volunteers deliver patient personal items to nursing stations, transport out-patients within the Hospital, provide directions and information, and collect and clean wheelchairs.

All previously issued COVID-19 Daily Situation Reports are available at <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information/past-daily-updates/>.

Please forward any questions/concerns to your supervisor.

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Local COVID-19 case status: <https://www.tbdhu.com/coronavirus>

Provincial COVID-19 case status: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus#section-0>

Canada COVID-19 case status: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

COVID-19 Daily Situation Report videos: <http://tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information>

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