

COVID-19 UPDATE

Keeping You Safe



Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
Centre

To: All Staff and Professional Staff

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

Date: September 18, 2020

RE: Patient Movement within the Hospital

The health and safety of all community members is our utmost priority. As part of our Recovery Plan and the easing of current restrictions, the following updated guidelines for patient movement within the Hospital are effective immediately.

Patients who are positive or suspect for COVID-19 infection are not permitted to leave their inpatient room unless required for medical care.

Patients who are not positive for COVID-19 are strongly encouraged to supply their own facemask and must comply with the following:

- The patient **must** perform hand hygiene and don a facemask prior to exiting their room;
- The patient **must** wear the mask the entire time they are outside of their room;
- Patients are not required to wear a mask in the common areas of Forensics Mental Health, Adult Mental Health and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit (CAMHU). These patients are required to wear a mask outside of their respective unit;
- Masks are recommended but not required for Paediatric patients while at the hospital;
- The patient **may**:
 - Ambulate throughout the Hospital for purposes of appointments or procedures outside of their admitted room with the accompaniment of a porter;
 - Patient must immediately return to their room when the appointment is complete with the accompaniment of a porter or staff member;
 - Ambulate within the common space of the patient's unit;
- The patient **may not**:
 - Exit the hospital;
 - Loiter or sit in other places in the Hospital;
 - Enter other inpatient areas of the Hospital;
 - Enter the room of another admitted inpatient;
 - Enter any patient care area where they do not have an appointment or procedure;
 - Visit the cafeteria or Robin's.

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If the patient has not been seen on the unit for two hours:

1. Attempt to search for patient. Consider Code Yellow if appropriate;
2. Attempt to contact patient or next of kin and advise them to return to hospital and potential risks of not returning to their unit;
3. Contact MRP and notify them that the patient has left against medical advice (AMA), advise them if the patient was contacted and of any potential patient plans. The MRP may request the patient be returned to the Hospital by police, in which case file a FORM 9 and advise police.
4. If patient is not contacted or fails to return to unit after four hours, discharge the patient according to PAT-5-48 (Refusal of Treatment – Discharged Patient). If the patient returns after four hours, advise the patient to report to the ED for medical clearance and potential readmission.

ECPs and Care Partners **must** wear their own facemask at all times, travel directly to and from the patient room, and remain in the room for the duration of their visit. Any visits to Flavour's Cafeteria, Robin's or Season's Gift Shop must be done on their way in or out from visiting the patient.

Each unit is responsible for enforcing these guidelines. Hospital staff should use their clinical judgement in the enforcement of mask use.

Thank you for your commitment to safe and quality health care for our patients, families and community.

For more information, please contact your supervisor.

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