

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, August 31, 2020

RE: **Update to Staff and Patient Screening Guidelines re: Travel**

The health and safety of staff, professional staff, patients, Care Partners and the community is our utmost priority. Based on monitoring of the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in alignment with the Thunder Bay District Health Unit and the Ontario Ministry of Health directions, travel restrictions have changed for both staff and patients/care partners accessing our Hospital.

Effective, Wednesday September 2nd, the COVID-19 screening question about travel will be updated to: “Have you traveled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?” This change will replace the existing question regarding travel outside of Northwestern Ontario (Manitoba border to White River), and indicates that travelling outside of Northwestern Ontario will no longer result in a failed screen.

The process for staff who need to travel remains the same as previously communicated. All staff who travel outside of Northwestern Ontario must continue to complete the travel form, have their manager review and sign, then forward to ohs@tbh.net. A COVID-19 swab is not required upon return with the exception of those that have worked at or attended a hospital that was in outbreak or are experiencing symptoms.

Parameters surrounding international travel (including the United States) remain unchanged. Those who have traveled outside of Canada are still required to self-isolate for 14 days upon return.

Please note that further changes or adjustments to the above guidelines may be required as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to safety.

Our Hospital provides tertiary health care services in Northwestern Ontario. As such, it is strongly encouraged that all staff and professional staff stay in the region and avoid travel unless absolutely necessary. When travelling, you must use personal protective measures including physical distancing, wearing a mask and performing frequent hand washing.

For more information about travel restrictions, please contact your manager or Occupational Health and Safety. For more information about screening, please contact Cathy Paroschy Harris at paroschc@tbh.net.

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