

# COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT

**Wednesday, September 23, 2020**

COVID-19 Status as of 3:30 pm

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
299	24482	2	0	0	86.5%

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

The COVID-19 Assessment Centre is currently dealing with an exceptionally high demand for testing. Originally, call volumes were at approximately 200-300 per day. Yesterday, our Assessment Centre received approximately 1,000 calls. This drastic increase in demand has overwhelmed our system, causing some technical issues with phone lines and online appointment bookings, as well as increased wait times for both test appointments and results.

Increased demand for testing can be attributed to a number of factors, including the return of students to classrooms, increased travel, and the health and safety policies of external agencies and workplaces. Community members who call our Assessment Centre for testing are assessed by clinically trained staff who triage each patient based on symptoms. The symptom criteria for COVID-19 testing is currently quite broad, and it is anticipated that those symptoms will soon be reviewed and updated on a provincial level, prioritizing shortness of breath, cough, and headaches. More specific criteria, based on medical evidence, will help alleviate some of the pressure on our Assessment Centre.

Our Hospital is committed to COVID-19 testing and is collaborating with system partners to further improve the Assessment Centre and testing processes. To address the backlog and ensure that those who require testing have access in a timely manner, we will no longer prioritize tests for those who are asymptomatic, with some exceptions for vulnerable populations such as Long Term Care workers and visitors, or those who have had an exposure to someone who has tested positive.

Our Hospital has assumed oversight for all assessment and testing completed in Thunder Bay, effective immediately. This includes working more closely with EMS, who perform COVID-19 tests in the community for youth and vulnerable people who are unable to attend the Assessment Centre at our Hospital.

Planning is also underway to open a second Assessment Centre in collaboration with the Thunder Bay District School Board and the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board. Our Hospital will provide the training to ensure all testing is safe and consistent. The aim is to have the second Assessment Centre operational as early as next week.

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Thunder Bay Regional  
Health Sciences  
Centre

Thank you to all staff and professional staff for your continued commitment to minimizing the spread of infection and keeping everyone safe. As the number of positive cases continues to climb in Ontario, continued diligence to all infection control protocols is prudent.

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/>