

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: Monday October 5, 2020

RE: **Updated Travel Restrictions – Travel outside of Northern Ontario.**

The health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients, care partners and the community is our utmost priority. In response to the rise in COVID-19 cases in Ontario, **travel restrictions will be reinstated at our Hospital.**

Effective Tuesday, October 6, non-essential travel outside of Northern Ontario in the past seven days will result in a failed entrance screening. Northern Ontario is defined as the area between Parry Sound and the Manitoba border. Please refer to the attached map.

What this means for staff and professional staff:

- Those who fail screening must contact their manager and Occupational Health & Safety (staff), or Medical Affairs (professional staff);
- If you left Northern Ontario prior to October 6, you will fail screening upon your return and be required to self-isolate and monitor for symptoms for a period of seven days. This will not impact your compensation;
- If you choose to leave Northern Ontario for non-essential travel as of October 6, you will fail screening and be required to self-isolate and monitor for symptoms for a period of seven days. You will not be compensated by the Hospital for the isolation period;
- Depending on the circumstance, accommodations may be possible, such as rapid COVID-19 testing combined with PPE for staff essential to patient care, use of vacation time, or remote work options;
- Limited exceptions for essential travel may apply with protocols applied. For example, staff members whose work involves travel, such as flight transfers of patients, as well as essential locums, will be allowed to maintain service, with OH&S, Infection Prevention & Control and/or Medical Affairs approval.

Travel restrictions also apply to patients who require non-urgent care, volunteers, learners, Care Partners and Essential Care Partners.

These restrictions are in line with the recommendations of the Thunder Bay District Health Unit for the protection of our community. I understand that travel restrictions can be difficult, especially for those who are separated from friends and family. However, Ontario has entered the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and we must be extra vigilant for the protection of all, including the most vulnerable patients in our care. Travel restrictions in the

COVID-19 UPDATE

Keeping You Safe



Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
Centre

first wave were integral to limiting the impact of COVID-19 in our community and Hospital. Your continued dedication to our COVID-19 pandemic response is highly appreciated. Questions regarding travel outside of Northern Ontario will be included in the screening process for staff, patients and essential care partners.

Travel restrictions can change frequently and will be updated as the situation evolves.

For more information, please contact your manager or Occupational Health & Safety.

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