

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: Tuesday December 1, 2020

RE: Mandatory Use of Level 2 Procedure Masks for all Staff

The health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients and the community is our utmost priority. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, **all staff and professional staff must wear Level 2 or HIGHER procedure masks in all areas of our Hospital. Cloth mask are no longer permitted for use by our staff while at work. The only exception is spaces in which you are able to consistently maintain 2 meters of physical distance.**

For the safety of all, this measure is to be implemented as early as possible and no later than tomorrow, Wednesday, December 2. *Please see the memo re: Implementation Locations for Level 2 procedure masks distribution details.*

This change aligns with the most recent evidence with regards to COVID-19 and related Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) best practices for the enhanced safety of all. It applies to all staff and professional staff working for our Hospital at all sites including 984 Oliver Road, 1040 Oliver Road, 289 and 290 Munro Street and the Assessment Centre at Confederation College.

Patients, Essential Care Partners and all other essential visitors entering our Hospital will be supplied with unrated procedure masks at screening entry points. These will replace personal cloth masks and must be worn at all times while in our Hospital.

All Staff and Professional Staff:

- Cloth masks are no longer permitted for use at work;
- All staff and professional staff will be provided with 1 Level 2 (or higher) procedure mask per day for general use including travel in and out of the building;
- For all other PPE requirements follow your departmental protocols and universal precautions. No changes have been made to these processes;
- Procedure masks are to be replaced if damaged, soiled or wet or according to clinical assessment.

Level 2 procedure masks are already available in patient care areas and inventory will be increased as required to meet demand. Processes for all other areas are currently being established by Stores and will be communicated to Managers.

Instructions for use of your procedure mask:

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- When leaving the Hospital, wear the Level 2 (or higher) procedure mask to your vehicle or until you are able to safely remove or exchange it while maintaining 2 meters of physical distance;
- Store mask properly between shifts (see attached Information Sheet);
- Wear the mask back to the work site for next shift;
- Access a new procedure mask for the day as per departmental procedures;
- If the Level 2 (or higher) procedure mask is forgotten, wear a cloth mask and enter via Main Entrance. The Screening Desk will provide a Level 2 procedure mask.

Your full cooperation is appreciated. Staff and Professional Staff compliance will continue to be monitored via Joint Occupational Health & Safety inspections.

Evidence-based decisions and responses are applied to continuously changing circumstances. As such, policies and guidelines will be updated as necessary time to comply with the best available evidence, and longer-term sustainability of PPE supply. You will be kept informed of any updates.

Thank you for your continued commitment to keeping each other and our patients safe.

Please contact your manager with any questions or concerns.

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