

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 Procedure Masks for All Patients (inpatient and outpatient), Essential Care Partners and Care Partners Entering Hospital**

The health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients and community members is our utmost priority. **To help prevent spread of COVID-19 all patients (inpatients and outpatients), Essential Care Partners and Care Partners (when permitted) must wear a procedure mask (unrated or higher).**

This applies to all Hospital locations including 984 Oliver Road and 1040 Oliver Road. This does not apply to individuals accessing the COVID-19 Assessment Centre at either the Hospital or Confederation College site. Individuals entering the Hospital wearing a cloth mask will be asked to remove and don the provided procedure mask during the screening process.

All Patients and Care Partners entering the Hospital:

- Will be provided with an unrated mask or higher at either the screening desk or outpatient area including Emergency, Labor & Delivery, and outpatient clinics in other buildings;
- Masks are to be replaced when damaged, soiled or wet.

All In-Patients must wear a procedure mask (unrated or higher):

- During all interactions with TBRHSC staff and professional staff;
- When being transported out of their room;
- When physical distancing of 2 meters is not possible (i.e. ambulating to shared washroom);
- Masks will be replaced daily or when damaged, soiled or wet.

All Contractors and Vendors will:

- Continue with the current process of wearing a procedure mask provided by their employer.

Procedure masks are already available in patient care areas and inventory will be increased as required to meet demand. Stores will work with departments to ensure a supply of procedure masks are available.

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The change comes into effect on Wednesday December 2 and full compliance is expected. Thank you for your kindness and patience toward with those entering our Hospital.

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.

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/>.