

# COVID-19 UPDATE

## Keeping You Safe



To: All staff and professional staff

From: Dr. Stewart Kennedy, COVID-19 Incident Manager

Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2020

RE: **Physical Distancing in Break Areas**

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The health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients and the community is our utmost priority. Staff-to-staff transmission of COVID-19 is the highest risk within our Hospital and is most likely to occur when eating or drinking. As such, it is imperative to ensure appropriate use of PPE and that physical distancing be maintained while in all break areas.

**For the health and safety of all and as per the Public Health Inspector directive, inpatient staff room capacity is limited to 2 people eating/drinking at a time.** Additional staff may come and go to briefly use appliances, but only one person at a time and they must be wearing a mask. The Public Health Inspectors have indicated that they are prepared to fine staff who are not in compliance.

Many strategies have been and continue to be implemented to ensure break rooms are used safely. This includes limiting the capacity of all break rooms. Please abide by the restrictions posted in break areas.

Further, while on site recently, the Public Health Inspector indicated that they are prepared to ticket staff they encounter who are not in compliance with the food and beverage consumption in non-designated areas (i.e. nursing stations). Please note that the Public Health Inspector will be on site periodically.

The last thing we want is for staff to be in this situation. We know how dedicated and diligent all staff have been during this incredibly challenging time. To support your safety and to prevent ticketing of staff, managers have been asked to monitor all break rooms and work spaces. To protect yourself, your colleagues, and your loved ones at home, your continued diligence and adherence to all health and safety protocols is appreciated.

To provide additional, safe lunchroom space to staff, most meeting rooms are now available during the lunch period. Please refer to the previous memo for more details (<https://comms.tbrhsc.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Memo-Meeting-Rooms-as-Overflow-Break-and-Lunch-Rooms.pdf>).

Capital Planning will continue to review break areas for further assessment and make modifications to support physical distancing as necessary.

Thank you for your dedication to safety. Please contact your manager with questions or concerns.

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