

COVID-19 UPDATE

Keeping You Safe



What happens when a staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

As always, the health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients and the community is our utmost priority and every effort is made to ensure a safe work environment.

As you are aware, the high number of positive COVID-19 cases in our community over the past few weeks include some Hospital staff. It is important to note that COVID-19 infections were not acquired at Hospital, and that there was no spread within the Hospital. Our stringent infection prevention and control measures are effective. Thank you to everyone for your continued diligence in PPE use, maintaining physical distance, and washing your hands frequently.

All measures to keep COVID-19 out of our Hospital are critical. This includes staff actively and honestly self-screening for symptoms of the virus prior to reporting to work, as well as reporting to your supervisor any symptoms that may arise during work.

Please note that if you have been advised by Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) to quarantine due to exposure, you are required to inform your supervisor and Occupational Health & Safety (OHS). **Additionally, if a member of your household is required to be tested as a result of close contact with a positive case, you must inform your supervisor and OHS, and self-isolate at home until their test results are returned.** This new measure is in place out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of all.

When a staff member tests positive for COVID-19

We are committed to ensuring safety, as well as everyone's right to confidentiality. Should a staff member test positive for COVID-19, personal information will not be shared.

The TBDHU receives all positive test results. If Hospital staff are impacted, the TBDHU will notify our Hospital's Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) and Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) teams.

TBDHU is responsible for notifying Hospital staff of a positive test result when the contact and testing is not work-related. The TBDHU then completes the contact tracing with input from the staff member and from our OHS and IPAC departments. If the contact is work-related, our Hospital then becomes responsible for contacting the staff member and completing contact tracing within our Hospital environment. Anyone who is impacted will be notified.

OHS, IPAC, and the TBDHU then work together to conduct a risk assessment for anyone impacted. Staff deemed high risk of contact (for instance, there was close contact of less than 2 metres and personal protective equipment was not worn) is required to self-isolate for 14 days and follow the direction of OHS.

Anyone who has had contact with a positive COVID-19 case but appropriate precautions were followed, are assessed as low risk of contact and are required to self-monitor and come to work

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while adhering to all PPE measures at all times.

If you do test positive, are contacted as an identified high risk contact, or are part of a broader low risk group, please be honest and helpful with regards to our contact tracing efforts, and come forward if you feel there may have been a greater risk of exposure. Your cooperation is imperative to making sure we keep everyone safe and stop any potential spread of COVID-19.

The measures and precautions we have in place at our Hospital are intended to keep everyone safe. Please ensure you remain as diligent in your personal lives and set a positive example for the community. We are all in this together.

This pandemic is a stressful time for all, especially to anyone personally impacted by COVID-19 exposure. We are committed to doing our part to keep you safe and healthy. If you need support, please access the Health and Wellness resources available on the Intranet:

<https://comms.tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information/staff-wellness-resources/>