

COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT



January 6, 2020

COVID-19 Status as of 1:00 pm:

Presumptive Cases in Hospital	Total Positive Cases in Hospital	Positive Cases in ICU	Hospital Occupancy	Active COVID-19 cases in the TBDHU district	Our Hospital's Internal Response Level
3	5	1	79.9%	48	Control

We recognize that you have many questions about the vaccine. The situation is an evolving one, and new information is rolled out frequently. Please visit the iNtranet for details, as well as answers to some frequently asked questions.

Since there will be limited doses available at first, the Province is rolling out the vaccine in a phased approach, with a focus on getting vaccines to the most vulnerable populations first – which were identified and recommended by medical experts and the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force – followed by immunization for the broader general public.

Groups receiving the early vaccine doses in the first few months of the Ontario immunization program will include:

- Residents, staff, essential caregivers, and other employees of congregate living settings (e.g. long-term care homes and retirement homes) that provide care for seniors as they are at higher risk of infection and serious illness from COVID-19;
- Health care workers, including hospital employees, other staff who work or study in hospitals, and other health care personnel;
- Adults in Indigenous communities, including remote communities where risk of transmission is high; and
- Adult recipients of chronic home health care.

Initially, our hospital began administering a limited supply of the Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine to direct patient care staff of long term care (LTC) homes in Thunder Bay, as well as to vaccinators who will participate in a remote northern vaccine strategy. For example, ORNGE staff on the front lines.

The vaccine must be stored in extremely cold temperatures. Once the Pfizer vaccine is removed from a freezer, is thawed and reconstituted we have 6 hours to administer the dose. Our storage site is highly confidential, secure and monitored at all times.

Each person receiving the vaccine goes through a consent process, as with any other vaccine. In addition, all those receiving a dose will be registered within a provincial registry system and expected to return to receive the second dose of the vaccine after 21 days (Pfizer's product is a two-dose vaccine).

COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT



Thunder Bay Regional
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Like any vaccine, mild side effects may be experienced after vaccination. Given that some mild side effects may represent COVID-19 like symptoms, only a small percentage of staff from different facilities will receive vaccination in a staggered approach. The first few shipments of vaccine will not be enough to vaccinate all who work in Thunder Bay's six LTC homes, so we have been asked to prioritize those working in patient care areas. The management of each LTC home is responsible for working with their teams to identify their staff from different clinical areas.

In addition to LTC staff and those participating in the remote northern vaccine strategy, we will soon begin the process of scheduling groups of TBRHSC staff prioritized by their risk of exposure to COVID-19, their risk of severe disease outcomes from COVID-19 among patient population served, and their criticality to health system capacity. This group was identified through the formation of the Health Care Vaccine Priority Committee.

The Vaccine Priority Committee membership is comprised of health care system partners within the City of Thunder Bay, with the inclusion of a Bioethicist, and a Patient Family Advisor. The committee is guided by an ethical framework and a Health Care Worker Vaccine Priority Setting Guidance matrix, provided by the Ministry of Health, to help inform priority group recommendations. The matrix emphasizes the importance of identifying priority groups based on:

- Risk of exposure, based on role and responsibility;
- Risk to the health of the populations served;
- Criticality to health care system capacity.

The Health Care Vaccine Priority Committee determined that the Emergency Department (ED) should be the first priority group to receive the vaccine, followed by the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), and those working in the Assessment Centre and Vaccination Clinic.

Given the limited supply, we do not want to waste vaccine doses that have already been reconstituted. In instances where previously scheduled appointments are cancelled, an on-call system of additional staff names is pulled from to ensure that no doses are wasted.

It is anticipated that additional doses of the Pfizer vaccine will arrive in January.

It is encouraging that we can begin the process of vaccination but please continue to wear a mask, maintain physical distancing, wash your hands frequently, and limit your contact to people within your own home if at all possible. Maintaining this approach will help ensure the health and safety of all.

We will share information as we receive it from the Province. Please feel free to visit the [Ministry of Health Covid-19 Vaccine website](#).

All previously issued COVID-19 Daily Situation Reports are available at <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information/past-daily-updates/>.

Local COVID-19 case status: <https://www.tbdhu.com/coronavirus>

COVID-19 SITUATION REPORT



Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
Centre

Provincial COVID-19 case status: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus#section-0>

Canada COVID-19 case status: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

COVID-19 Daily Situation Report videos: <http://tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information>

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

Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre is a leader in Patient and Family Centred Care and a research and teaching hospital proudly affiliated with **Lakehead University, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and Confederation College**.

Le Centre régional des sciences de la santé de Thunder Bay, un hôpital d'enseignement et de recherche, est reconnu comme un leader dans la prestation de soins et de services aux patients et aux familles et est fier de son affiliation à l'**université Lakehead, à l'École de médecine du Nord de l'Ontario et au collège Confédération**.

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