

# COVID-19 UPDATE

## Keeping You Safe



To: All Staff and Professional Staff

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

Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021

RE: **Mandatory use of eye protection**

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The health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients and the community is our utmost priority. With COVID-19 positive cases increasing in the community and our Hospital, and based on recently updated Ministry of Health guidelines, **all staff, professional staff, volunteers and learners will now be required to wear eye protection while in any Hospital location.**

This measure enhances your safety and protects the specialized acute care services we provide to those in need. The Ministry guidelines indicate that contact with a positive COVID-19 person is considered high risk if eye protection was not worn.

Currently, staff are required to wear eye protection when directly providing patient care within clinical settings. This change requires ALL staff, professional staff, volunteers and learners to wear eye protection (goggles or face shield) at all times when not in a private office space at all TBRHSC sites (1040 Oliver Road, Munro Street locations, the Transitional Care Unit at Hogarth Riveriew Manor, the Medical Building, the COVID-19 Assessment Centre, and the COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic).

The following applies to all staff, professional staff, volunteers and learners:

- Goggles are the recommended form of eye protection;
- If goggles cannot be worn, or if you prefer to purchase your own eye protection, review the issue with your manager, and if needed the manager will connect with OHS to determine next steps;
- You will be required to disinfect your goggles independently daily and as needed;
- All will be required to wear eye protection immediately upon entry into the building and until exit;
- Similar to the process for procedure masks, you will leave work with your goggles and wear the same goggles to return to work. Once at work, deposit the used goggles in centralized bins and then use new goggles for remainder of day;
- Delivery of clean goggles will follow current processes for mask delivery and distribution;
- Any departments that currently order masks will need to order goggles (item #3210);
- Any areas that are currently centrally stocked with masks will have a central stock of goggles as well – no ordering is required;

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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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- If goggles become dirty or soiled, you are encouraged to replace and not self-clean;
- Heavily soiled goggles should be pre-rinsed before collection or disposed;
- Dirty goggles will be discarded in centralized bins.

Instructions on how to care for your eye protection can be found here:

[https://comms.tbrhsc.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Face-Protection-How-to-Care-for-your-Face-Protection-May-222020\\_1.pdf](https://comms.tbrhsc.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Face-Protection-How-to-Care-for-your-Face-Protection-May-222020_1.pdf)

**This practice is to be implemented immediately in all areas where goggles are already supplied and in use.** All other areas are to be implemented in a phased approach as supplies are distributed, and no later than 16:00 on Friday, February 26.

Your cooperation and compliance is appreciated.

Please contact your manager with any questions or concerns.

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