

COVID-19 UPDATE

Keeping You Safe



To: All staff and professional staff

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

Date: Thursday, February 4, 2021

RE: **Updated Screening for High Risk populations**

Significant outbreaks associated with the Thunder Bay Correctional Centre and the Thunder Bay District Jail could result in increased community spread of COVID-19, which poses a risk for our Hospital, as well as the general community. As such, our Hospital has updated our patient and entrance screening questions to help protect the health and safety of all.

Effective Friday, February 5th at 06:00, the following screening question will be added for patient/care partners:

- Are you a staff/resident of a congregate living setting and institution (i.e. retirement home, shelter, detention center or group home) or have you had close contact with a staff/resident of a congregate living setting or institution?

Please note that answering "yes" to this question will not indicate a failed screen but will prompt the following Infection Prevention and Control measures:

1. Initiate a minimum of droplet/contact (green) precautions.
2. Notify the MRP and IPAC (or admin coordinator if after hours). If an inpatient, notify admitting.
3. If in the past 90 days the patient has not tested positive for COVID-19, test for COVID-19 at the discretion of MRP/IPAC.
4. Regardless of the COVID-19 test result (if tested), maintain the patient on a minimum of droplet/contact (green) precautions until cleared by IPAC.
5. Monitor the patient for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following their admission.

The above updates should apply to all on-site and off-site locations of the Hospital.

As always, clinical expertise plays a role in determining the best approach for patient care. As appropriate, your judgement in collaboration with physician assessment will be used to determine whether priority swabs and droplet precautions should be taken in instances where a patient is unable to disclose relevant information with regards to screening.

In addition to the above measures, please practice heightened caution in all interactions and ensure stringent compliance with all public health measures, including appropriate use of PPE, physical distancing, and frequent hand washing.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to health and safety. All Hospital COVID-19 updates are available on the iNtranet at <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information/>.