

HOSPITAL ACTIVITY UPDATE



March 24, 2021

COVID-19 Status as of 10:50 am:

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
9	30	7	78%	286	GREY

We recognize that some of you may still have questions or concerns regarding the extension of 2nd dose intervals of the COVID-19 vaccine up to 16 weeks. The decision to do so was directed by the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario and supported by the National Advisory Committee on Immunizations (NACI). A message from Dr. Dirk Huyer, Coordinator, Provincial Outbreak Response, received on March 23rd, confirms the direction previously provided to Public Health Units and hospitals regarding the NACI-advised extension to a 16 week interval between vaccination doses for the three two-dose vaccines currently approved by Health Canada (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD).

According to the message, the following groups will continue to receive the vaccine at the initial intervals as described in the product monographs: Residents of long-term care homes, retirement homes, Elder Care Lodges and Assisted Living facilities, on-reserve First Nation members, and remote and isolated First Nation communities (currently supported by Operation Remote Immunity). All others who have received their first dose and have not received a second dose will be provided their second dose after an interval up to 16 weeks. The vaccine clinical advisory group will continue to review relevant evidence regarding the vaccine dosing interval and will provide evidence informed recommendations for modification if indicated.

The staff in our COVID-19 Assessment Centre continue to provide a valuable service to the entire community. As the number of cases in-hospital and in the community stabilize, the demand for testing has fallen slightly. Testing volumes have decreased over the past two weeks from 335 swabs per day to 278 swabs per day.

The Virtual Emergency Department (ED) supports people to receive appropriate care from the comfort of their home while avoiding unnecessary visits to our ED. This innovative concept continues to be well received by those who have utilized the service. Between March 1st and March 19th, there was an average of just over 8 Virtual ED appointments per day. Almost 95% of users rated their overall experience as Very Good or Excellent. Nearly 43% reported their reason for using this service was related to their inability to get an appointment or long wait times to see their primary care provider. Of the people who utilize virtual care, 39% do not have a primary care provider. Congratulations to all those involved who made this service a reality for our patients and their families. For more information or to book an appointment visit www.tbrhsc.net/VirtualED.

The health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients and the community is our utmost priority. It is vital that we all do our part to remain vigilant and adhere to enhanced Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) protocols for the safety of all. Please continue to wear your mask, protective eye wear and adhere to all infection prevention and control protocols. Physical distancing must also be practiced when possible. Provided people are masked and wearing protective eye wear, gatherings for the purpose of training may be up to 1/3 of the original room capacity.

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Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
Centre

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and understanding.

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**.

healthy
together

En santé
ensemble