



Thunder Bay Regional  
**Health Sciences  
Centre**

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Dear Patient,

Your health and safety, and the health and safety of all patients, staff, professional staff, care partners and the community is our utmost priority.

For the protection of all, masks are mandatory while inside the Hospital to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. This measure is in alignment with the City of Thunder Bay, the Thunder Bay District Health Unit and Ontario Health directions. There is scientific evidence that masks assist in limiting the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

I do understand the significant inconvenience of this request for some individuals and the discomfort of wearing a mask, but we must protect the health and safety all patients and staff within our hospital. As the only acute care hospital in Northwestern Ontario, an outbreak of COVID-19 may threaten access to specialized acute care for all people in our region. As such, your request to enter our Hospital without a mask is denied. If you do have a medical reason for not being able to wear a mask, you must provide signed documentation from your health care provider to confirm this. However, there are very few medical reasons that restrict the use of wearing a mask.

Providing you and all patients with safe access to care is our top priority. I strongly encourage you to reconsider your decision regarding your use of a mask so that we can provide care in a manner that is safe for everyone. If you do not have your own mask, one will be provided when you arrive at the Hospital.

The Hospital will not deny you access for urgent medical needs.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperating during these difficult and unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

Dr. Peter Voros  
Executive Vice President, In-Patient Care Programs and COVID-19 Incident Manager  
Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre