

COVID-19 UPDATE

Keeping You Safe



To: All Staff and Professional Staff

From: Dr. Peter Voros, Incident Manager

Date: March 13, 2021

RE: **Hospital COVID-19 Response Level Grey Activity**

The health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients and the community is our utmost priority. In response to the increase in cases of COVID-19 in our community, combined with the pressures on our Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and a COVID-19 outbreak on our 1A Medical Unit, our Hospital is now in Level Grey (Lockdown).

There are currently 22 intensive care patients admitted to the hospital. Of those, 19 are on ventilators. In addition, due to the outbreak, the 24 beds in the 1A Medical Unit are unavailable for admissions. Level Grey stimulates actions that increase the availability of critical care service for those in need. These include:

- transferring to southern Ontario of some patients from our ICU to hospitals with more ICU capacity;
- diverting to southern Ontario Critical Care patients who would otherwise be transferred from regional communities to our hospital, except those with life and limb needs;
- further reducing elective procedures;
- enhanced collaboration with health system partners to transfer patients to other appropriate care locations.

These measures enable the following at our hospital:

- available space in our ICU to accept patients in need of critical care;
- further expansion of the dedicated COVID-19 Care Unit as needed to meet increasing needs;
- ensuring the availability of clinical and support staff to work in areas of highest need;
- continuation of emergent surgeries;
- reduced traffic in the hospital to minimize the risk of spread of infection.

Our hospital remains a safe place for people to access urgent care.

All measures are considered temporary and will be evaluated to ensure they are effective and appropriate. The Incident Management Team continues to meet daily to assess and respond to the evolving situation. Appreciation is extended to all leaders, staff and professional staff for your ongoing dedication to the community we serve.

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