

# HOSPITAL ACTIVITY UPDATE



**April 28, 2021**

COVID-19 Status as of 10:00 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
10	8	1	74%	66	<b>GREY</b>

Our Hospital, like others across the Province, continues to respond to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. We are committed to protecting the health and safety of staff, professional staff, patients and the community while also addressing the acute care needs of the people we serve.

As of April 21, 2021, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health issued an amended Directive #2, replacing the Directive #2 issued on May 26, 2020. The new Directive #2 requires that all non-emergent and non-urgent surgeries and procedures be paused, with the exception of surgeries and procedures performed in pediatric specialty hospitals.

Emergent and urgent surgeries **will not** be impacted. All patients will also continue to have access to other health services, including services that are peripheral to surgical services. Our Hospital has paused non-emergent/non-urgent services as identified by the main principals in the Directive, which is to preserve system capacity and deal effectively with the impact of COVID-19.

Defining a surgery as urgent or emergent should not be done by "surgery type", but rather by allowing for individual assessments of patient-specific needs and acuity. As per Directive #2 ([https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/directives/RHPA\\_professionals.pdf](https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/directives/RHPA_professionals.pdf)), triaging regarding cessation or postponement will be completed by the responsible Clinician. They are in the best position to determine what are urgent and emergent surgeries, while relying on evidence and guidance where able. Additionally, Clinicians have been directed to be guided by the principles of Proportionality, Minimizing Harm to patients, Equity, and Reciprocity.

Most recently, surgeries at our Hospital have been functioning at approximately 103% of historical volumes. Last week we reduced that to approximately 95%, and have planned for further reductions to approximately 75% for this week. We will be working to closely monitor the situation and ensure that we are able to act expeditiously to further pause and reduce surgeries and procedures should care capacity or Human Resources be required at a local, regional or provincial level. Any further reductions will still require Clinicians to triage their surgical lists in order to ensure that those most in need are prioritized.

As a part of the provincial health care system, our Hospital is scheduled to begin receiving patient transfers from outside of our region. This will begin with one today. This is a common and reciprocal practice where hospitals do their best to assist others when beds, staff and medical expertise is stretched or overwhelmed. For example, in March when we were experiencing higher volumes, patients were transferred out of Thunder Bay to other hospitals in Ontario. This will not impact our Hospital's ability to serve the people of Northwestern Ontario.

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Thunder Bay Regional  
Health Sciences  
Centre

The MRI Door – Staff Only Entrance is now staffed with additional screeners during peak times to help promote the importance of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) compliance. All staff, Professional staff, students and volunteers are required to wear a mask, wear eye protection and use the hand sanitizer station upon entry to our Hospital. As instructed by the Medical Officer of Health, all businesses and organizations located within the Thunder Bay District must adopt a policy that requires all members of the public and employees who enter or remain in an enclosed public space to wear a mask or face covering.

For full PPE requirements, please refer to the COVID-19 Pandemic PPE Program: <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/COVID-19-Pandemic-PPE-Program-Rev-6.pdf> and COVID-19 Eye Protection Guide: <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/1-TBRHSC-COVID-19-Eye-Protection-Guide.pdf>. Your health and safety are of the utmost importance. Noncompliance with this protocol will result in further education by your Manager/Supervisor, and continued noncompliance may result in disciplinary action. Please contact your Manager/Supervisor or Occupational Health and Safety if you have specific questions related to this process.

A Strategic Plan clearly lays out a meaningful and achievable future state. The Strategic Plan 2026 will be a bold and innovative plan to guide our Hospital and Health Research Institute for the next five years – and we need your ideas to help shape it. We value your input. This is your opportunity to tell us how you think we are doing as an organization – what we are doing well and where can we improve. We want to know what you think is most important for our future. Please complete a short survey for the Hospital <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TBRHSCStratPlan2026> and Health Research Institute <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TBRHRIStratPlan2026> to have your voice heard and to help shape our future.

There is still time to get involved with the Accreditation process this month by providing your feedback online. Clinical staff can visit <https://www3.accreditation.ca/OrgInstrument> to complete the Canadian Patient Safety Culture Survey (Use the organization code: THUBA and password: 2C096CF8). Non-clinical staff can visit <https://www3.accreditation.ca/OrgInstrument> to complete the Worklife Pulse Survey (Use the organization code: THUBA and password: 2FF3577F). The survey takes only five minutes to complete, is completely anonymous and is an opportunity to have your voice heard. The survey portal closes on Friday, April 30, 2021. Those who have completed the survey will also have the option to complete an additional survey for a chance to participate in the weekly prize draws, which include \$10 Robins Gift Cards and a Grand Prize of a \$25 Chapters Gift Card. Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HYL2XZD> (before April 30, 2021).

National Laundry & Linen Appreciation Week occurs during the last full week of April and is an opportunity to recognize an important group of behind-the-scenes champions at our Hospital. Join us in thanking everyone in our Laundry & Linen Department for their hard work, tireless effort and vital contribution to the patient care experience.

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