

HOSPITAL ACTIVITY UPDATE



April 7, 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
18	19	7	82%	148	GREY

Thank you for sharing your concerns with us regarding the provincial direction of a 16-week interval between first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccines. It is important to note that all decisions regarding the dosing interval are directed by the Province and the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario. Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC) does not have any authority to make decisions related to who we vaccinate and when we vaccinate; instead, this is directed by the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, together with the Province.

The current provincial direction is that 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), transplant recipients including solid organ and hematopoietic stem cell transplants, and individuals with malignant hematologic disorders and non-hematologic malignant solid tumors receiving active treatment (chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy), excluding individuals receiving solely hormonal therapy or radiation therapy.

Additionally, the Province, through its Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Williams, has clearly directed that all others who have received their first dose and have yet to receive a second dose must be provided their second dose after an interval of up to 16-weeks.

While we have continued to advocate for reduced intervals, we understand that the province is continuing to review data as well as vaccine supply. Should there be sufficiently more vaccine, there is the potential for the province to provide public health units with latitude on vaccine intervals. In the meantime, while we are understanding and empathetic to your request, there is no ability provided to TBRHSC to go outside of this direction. We will continue to advocate and look forward to more flexibility as soon as it is possible. Thank you for your ongoing support as we push ahead with vaccinations of all eligible individuals.

As part of Ontario's Phase 2 vaccine distribution plan, TBRHSC's COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic has been directed to offer vaccine appointments to individuals within the District of Thunder Bay with high-risk health conditions. Patients who may qualify are encouraged to visit www.tbrhsc.net/vaccinations for more information about eligibility and how to schedule an appointment online or by telephone.

Health Canada recently issued a product recall, advising Canadians not to use face masks that contain graphene because there is a potential that they could inhale graphene particles, which may pose health risks. Graphene is a novel nanomaterial (materials made of tiny particles) reported to have antiviral and antibacterial properties. Health Canada conducted a preliminary scientific assessment after being made aware that masks containing graphene have been sold with COVID-19 claims and used by adults and children in schools and daycares. Health Canada believes they may also have been distributed for use in

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Thunder Bay Regional
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health care settings. TBRHSC's supply of masks are not affected by this product recall. The company that supplies our masks, Primed, manufactures their own masks, where as this recall is specific to third party manufacturing. Primed has confirmed that their masks do not contain graphene, and thus, do not pose a health risk.

We remain committed to transparency, and hope that providing information and answers to your questions support your efforts. The next virtual All Staff Town Hall is taking place on Wednesday, April 14th at 2:00 pm via Webex. We value you and your input. Thank you to those who have already submitted questions. If you have questions you'd like answered, please submit them online at <http://tbh.net/thg> and we will do our best to address them. Thank you for your commitment to staying informed and engaged. We look forward to seeing you all at the All Staff Town Hall!

On April 6th, our Hospital joined others across Canada in celebrating Oncology Nursing Day, which recognizes the incredible role oncology nurses play in our national health care system. Cancer affects people of all genders, nationalities and age groups. Oncology nurses are on the front lines of cancer treatment, care and research. There are countless untold stories of oncology nurses profoundly impacting the lives of so many Canadian cancer patients and their families. Thank you to all of our oncology nurses for your dedication, hard work, and your tireless pursuit of providing our patients and families with exceptional care.

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