

COVID-19 UPDATE

Keeping You Safe



Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
Centre

To: All Staff & Professional Staff

From: Dr. Rhonda Crocker Ellacott, President & CEO, TBRHSC, CEO, TBRHRI
Dr. Peter Voros, COVID-19 Incident Manager, EVP In-Patient Care Programs,
TBRHSC

Date: April 23, 2021

RE: **Clarifying Hospital Response to Directive #2**

The intent of this memo is to provide clarity on how Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC) is responding to Directive #2, issued by Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health on April 21st, 2021.

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.

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, 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 TBRHSC have been functioning at approximately 103% of historical volumes. This current week we have reduced that to approximately 95%, and have planned for further reductions to approximately 75% next 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.