

HOSPITAL ACTIVITY UPDATE



May 26, 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
8	11	5	80%	17	Red

Hospitals in Northern Ontario, including Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, are now treating patients from Manitoba to help the neighbouring province as it experiences a high COVID-19 surge, and its ICU capacity is at significant risk. This is the first time during the pandemic Manitoba has requested assistance to help its health system cope with increased patient numbers. As of today, our Hospital has received a total of six patient transfers from Manitoba to assist them with their capacity issues. Our Hospital will accept patients based on our own limits of capacity and capability – that includes ICU beds and the great staff and professional staff here at our Hospital. We will also ensure that this assistance in no way impacts the services we provide to patients and our community on a local or regional level.

This is not an uncommon practice, though it is getting a lot more attention due to the circumstances. We've had long standing and great working relationships with hospitals in Manitoba and we are glad to lend any assistance we can during this incredible surge in COVID-19 numbers they are experiencing.

In February 2021, when there were multiple outbreaks in local detention centres, shelters and other facilities, the Hospital's COVID-19 screening questions were updated to reflect this situation. Due to the decrease in outbreaks in these types of congregate living settings, and an increase in vaccination uptake of both staff and residents in these locations, the risk of exposure has diminished. Effective today, the following screening question will be removed for patients and care partners entering the Hospital: *Are you a staff/resident of a congregate living setting and institution (i.e. retirement home, shelter, detention center or group home) or have you had close contact with a staff/resident of a congregate living setting or institution?* This update will apply to all on-site and off-site locations of the Hospital, and all other screening questions will remain in effect. New patient and Essential Care Partner screening questions will be available on the iNtranet and the Hospital's public facing website. Please use the updated form when including screening forms in patient information packages.

Changes to emergency stroke response have been made to align current practice with evidence-informed guidance outlined in the Ontario Ministry of Health's Directive #5. Code Stroke will no longer be called as Protected Code Stroke. Patients who are suspected/positive COVID-19 or are not able to screen due to aphasia or cognitive issues will be cared for under droplet/contact precautions. This will require the Stroke Team and front-line responders to wear a surgical/procedure mask, protective eye wear, gown and gloves as per the Hospital's Management of Novel Respiratory Infections IPC-2-16 policy. The status of the pandemic will continue to be monitored and adjustments to Code Stroke processes will be made as required to ensure the safety of staff, patients and the community. Managers are asked to inform their staff of these changes and post where appropriate. For questions related to changes in Code Stroke response, please contact Trina Diner at dinert@tbh.net.

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Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
Centre

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, and to better support our patients and families, our Hospital's Care Partner (CP) and Essential Care Partner (ECP) guidelines must adjust accordingly. Visit <http://bit.ly/Memo-Revised-ECP-Guidelines-May25> to read about the changes to ECP access.

From May 30 – June 5, employees are encouraged to leave their car at home as part of the Commuter Challenge. The Commuter Challenge is a weeklong, national challenge between workplaces to motivate employees to think about their usual commute to work. Trying new modes of getting to and from work, other than driving alone, promotes sustainable transportation and reduced air pollution. If you are working remotely, you are helping the environment by skipping the commute all together, but you can still get active and participate in the Challenge. Visit <http://bit.ly/CommuterChallenge2021> for more information.

May is National Physiotherapy Month and we would like to acknowledge the role of physiotherapy in Ontario's health care system. Physiotherapists and Physiotherapy Assistants use their knowledge of how the body works to assist patients in restoring strength, movement & function. As an integral part of a patient's health care team, we thank all Physiotherapists and Physiotherapy Assistants for their hard work and dedication, especially during the pandemic.

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