

# HOSPITAL ACTIVITY UPDATE



Thunder Bay Regional  
Health Sciences  
Centre

**July 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
7	0	0	82%	4	<b>Green (Recover and Prevent)</b>

Based on monitoring of the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in alignment with the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, the Ontario Ministry of Health, and Federal directions, travel restrictions have changed for everyone entering our Hospital. As of July 6th and in alignment with the Federal Government changes to travel outside of Canada, the Hospital's COVID-19 screening question about travel have been updated to: *"Have you traveled outside of Canada in the last 14 days? (Answer NO if you have been cleared by OHS or ArriveCAN has exempted you from quarantine)"*. This is the only travel question on screening – the question regarding travel outside of Northwestern Ontario (Manitouwadge to the Manitoba Border) is no longer being asked.

Our Hospital has also moved its Internal Pandemic Response Level from Yellow (Protect) to Green (Recover and Prevent). This is a result of the low number of COVID-19 positive cases in Thunder Bay and across Northwestern Ontario, and the rising vaccination numbers in our community. Please note that moving to Response Level Green does allow us to reduce restrictions on learners, volunteers as well as our external partners. In particular, all contractors and vendors who provide technical support, suppliers, and sales people will be allowed on site by invitation only. Despite the move to Green, we must continue to be cautious with our COVID-19 pandemic response. The safety of patients, staff and the community remains our utmost priority. With variants of concern circulating throughout the province, there is the possibility that the situation can change quickly. Entrance screening, physical distancing, hand hygiene and mandatory masking will remain in place for everyone entering our Hospital.

Following an unprecedented year, it is important to reflect on the many accomplishments at our Hospital. Despite the many challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, our staff, professional staff and volunteers displayed tremendous perseverance. Their efforts were vital to our Hospital's pandemic response. Thanks to their dedication, patients and families in our community and across the region continued to receive quality care. Read more in our Hospital's 2020/21 Annual Report Summary: <https://bit.ly/2020-2021-TBRHSC-AnnualReport>. This year also posed challenges in the areas of research and science. At Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute, the team persevered and pushed through several key and important projects that will not only advance patient care but play a significant part in the ongoing efforts for the medical and scientific community to learn more as a whole. Read more in the Health Research Institute's 2020/21 Annual Report Summary: <https://bit.ly/2020-2021-TBRHRI-AR>.

Our Hospital's Code Yellow—Missing or Wandering Patient policy (EMER-70) has been revised and the new version came into effect starting today (July 7th). To learn more about the significant policy changes, visit

Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre is a leader in Patient and Family Centred Care and a research and teaching hospital proudly affiliated with Lakehead University, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and Confederation College.

Le Centre régional des sciences de la santé de Thunder Bay, un hôpital d'enseignement et de recherche, est reconnu comme un leader dans la prestation de soins et de services aux patients et aux familles et est fier de son affiliation à l'université Lakehead, à l'École de médecine du Nord de l'Ontario et au collège Confédération.

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today's posting on the Daily Informed Newsletter: <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/informed/revision-to-emer-70-code-yellow-missing-or-wandering-patient/>

The Virtual Emergency Department (ED) pilot at our Hospital ended on June 30th. Launched on January 4th, 2021, the Virtual ED offered same-day virtual assessments with emergency department physicians. The program was made available to people living in Thunder Bay and the surrounding area who are older than 17 years of age, have a non-life-threatening medical issue, and either don't have a primary care provider or are unable to obtain timely access to one. Patients and families in our community embraced this innovative and convenient care option. As of June 30th, 815 virtual appointments were completed and the overall patient experience was rated a 9/10 by those who utilized the service.

The Virtual ED was also successful at reaching those who needed it most: 36% of people who utilized this service had no Primary Care Provider (PCP); a variety of non-urgent medical conditions were treated, including 25% who required a prescription and 13% who were referred to the ED for further assessment; and the most common reason for seeking this virtual option was related to the inability to obtain a timely PCP appointment. Thank you to all those involved who made this service a reality for our patients and their families. Our Hospital will look for collaborative opportunities to offer virtual care in the future.

Finally, and effectively immediately, the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) guidelines around eye protection at our Hospital have been updated. With the low number of COVID-19 positive cases in the community and in our Hospital, rising vaccination numbers, and based on recently updated Ministry of Health guidelines, protective eyewear will now only need to be worn in clinical areas (inpatient and outpatient) or when providing patient care in a non-clinical area within 2 metres. Masks will continue to be worn by everyone entering our Hospital and all satellite locations (1040 Oliver Road, Munro Street locations, the Transitional Care Unit at Hogarth Riverview Manor, the Medical Building, the COVID-19 Assessment Centre, and the Bora Laskin COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic) at all times with the only current exceptions being when someone is in a designated eating area or when they are alone in an office. Please contact your manager with any questions or concerns.

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