

HOSPITAL ACTIVITY UPDATE



August 18, 2021

COVID-19 Status as of 10:00 am:

Presumptive Cases in Hospital	Total Positive Cases in Hospital	Positive Cases in ICU	Active COVID-19 cases in the TBDHU district	Our Hospital's Internal Pandemic Response Level
6	0	0	5	Green (Recover and Prevent)

To ensure alignment with current guidelines from the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, the Ontario Government and our Hospital's Internal Pandemic Response Level (Green), the guidelines for when to test for COVID-19 and when to isolate have been updated, effective August 4th. Patients admitted to our Hospital who have travelled within the past 14 days outside of Northwestern Ontario but within Canada, and are asymptomatic, will no longer be required to isolate. Patients admitted to our Hospital who have travelled within the past 14 days outside of Canada, are tested for COVID-19 and will require isolation under a minimum of Droplet/Contact precautions for 14 days. If the patient is fully vaccinated and can provide proof of completed vaccination, Infection Prevention and Control will assess to determine the removal of isolation status. For more information, please review the [Guidance Document](#).

Senior Leadership Council at our Hospital recognizes the need to continue to strengthen the staff experience. As such, we are investigating opportunities for improvements to current staff scheduling processes, reviewing the current Nursing Resource Team (NRT) model, and aligning the human resources strategy to enhance recruitment, retention, and development.

Our goals are to identify opportunities for improved efficiencies, enhance the experience for frontline staff and managers, leading to improved patient experience, and advance organizational readiness to secure improved automated staffing solutions. To guide this important work, an Advisory Committee has been established that is comprised of both clinical and support services, Program Directors, as well as project leads. Other stakeholders include union representation, point of care staff, support services staff, and Patient Family Advisors.

Next steps include: Staff scheduling and NRT process mapping to identify gaps; Stakeholder engagement, including union groups and frontline staff to better understand the current state, review of best practices, assessment of organizational gaps, and identification and prioritization of change ideas; and the exploration of a scheduling software upgrade.

Engagement with the Staffing Advisory Committee in the development of recommendations is ongoing and further updates will be shared. Thank you to those who have already provided feedback on this project. Your input will guide our efforts to support improvements that will enrich both staff and patient experiences, while ensuring a healthy workplace environment. For more information, please contact Dawna Maria Perry, Director, Nursing Practice (perryd@tbh.net) or Angela Kutok, Performance Improvement Consultant (kutoka@tbh.net).

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Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
Centre

As you may have seen in the news yesterday, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health introduced new measures which establish minimum requirements related to COVID-19 vaccination in the hospital setting. The directive applies to requirements within hospitals for all staff, professional staff, contractors, volunteers and learners. The directive also sets out policy requirements for certain employee groups within home care and community services, home and community care support services providing home and community care and long-term care home placement services, and ambulance services.

The new mandatory provincial guidelines are listed below:

- Hospital staff, professional staff, contractors, volunteers and learners must provide proof of full immunization or written proof of a medical reason for not being fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- Failing to do one of the above, any of these individuals must complete an educational session about the benefits of COVID-19 vaccination.
- As well, any hospital staff, professional staff, contractors, volunteers and learners who are not fully vaccinated must participate in a regular antigen point-of-care testing program and show proof of negative test results.

Hospital processes to support the new mandate will need to be in place on or before September 7, 2021. Further communication regarding our Hospital's new Vaccination Policy will follow. We continue to encourage all eligible staff to get fully vaccinated.

A reminder that you can obtain your COVID-19 vaccination receipts in the event they are misplaced by downloading them online at <https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/>. Once you have received your vaccine, please ensure to forward a copy of your vaccination receipt to Occupational Health and Safety at ohs@tbh.net. Thank you to all those who have already received both doses of the vaccine in order to help protect yourself and others from the spread of COVID-19. Your commitment to health and safety is much appreciated.

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, September 8th at 2:00 pm via Webex. We value you and your input. If you have questions you would like answered, please submit them online at <http://tbh.net/thq> 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!

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