

# COVID-19 UPDATE

## Keeping You Safe



Thunder Bay Regional  
Health Sciences  
Centre

To: All Staff, Professional Staff, Learners and Volunteers

From: Dr. Peter Voros, Executive VP, Patient Care Programs & Regional VP, Cancer Services, North West Regional Cancer Program

Date: August 25, 2021

RE: **Proof of Vaccination Status Process for Pre-operative Patients**

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Currently, all patients attending pre-operative appointments are required to complete a COVID-19 swab to ensure a negative COVID-19 result in preparation for their procedure/surgery.

As community vaccination rates increase and the number of active COVID-19 cases remains low, proof of vaccination will eliminate the need for patients to be tested for COVID-19 prior to their pre-operative appointment, beginning August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

When patients are being booked for pre-operative appointments, their Physician's office clerk will request that the patient bring proof of full vaccination status to the pre-operative appointment. If the patient voluntarily agrees to provide this information, they can access their vaccination status online at <https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/> and show proof of full vaccination from their own device, at their pre-operative appointment.

Once Hospital staff have visualized proof of vaccination status, including the type of vaccine and date that full vaccination was administered, it will be recorded into Meditech. A vaccination screening field will be created in Meditech to enter the status of the patient.

If the patient:

- Received the full vaccination 2 weeks prior to their pre-operative appointment and are asymptomatic they will not need to complete a pre-operative COVID-19 swab.
- Does not voluntarily provide their full vaccination status, they will need to complete a pre-operative COVID-19 swab.
- Is symptomatic, regardless of vaccination status, they will need to complete a COVID-19 swab for Vaccinated Persons: patients who are fully vaccinated, i.e. having received all required doses of a Health Canada approved COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer BIONTECH, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson) where 14 days have elapsed following the final vaccine dose.

Privacy legislation prohibits mandatory vaccination declaration. Therefore, any patient coming to the Hospital will need to voluntarily provide their vaccination status in order to be exempt from COVID-19 swabbing upon admission.

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These recommendations will be in place during Internal Pandemic Response Levels Green and Yellow. If the Hospital moves to Level Orange, we will return to requiring a COVID-19 swab for all patients attending pre-operative appointments.

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

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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En santé  
ensemble