

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: September 2, 2021

RE: COVID-19 Antigen Testing for Unvaccinated Workers

As the health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients, care partners and the community is our utmost priority, the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC) is offering the COVID-19 vaccination program to meet the requirements of the Public Hospitals Act 1990, Regulation 965 and the Ministry of Health, Directive 6.

Unvaccinated health care workers pose an immediate risk to patients and other health care workers as well as to the health system capacity due to the potential introduction of COVID-19 into the health care setting.

A reminder that you can obtain your COVID-19 vaccination receipts by downloading them online at <https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/>. Once you have received your vaccine, forward a copy of your vaccination receipt to Occupational Health and Safety at ohs@tbh.net.

All workers must complete the COVID-19 Vaccination Declaration Form (<https://covid19-vaccination-declaration.tbrhsc.net/>) available in paper copy or web-portal, and submit it to Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) by **September 7, 2021**.

Workers who do not provide proof of full vaccination by **September 7, 2021** will be required to submit to regular antigen testing and demonstrate a negative result, as directed by and at intervals to be determined by the Hospital. The worker will:

1. Be contacted by Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) with instructions as to when and where to pick up their antigen testing kit;
2. Receive a paper copy of the information package with all relevant information required to successfully perform their test and guidance for results and auditing;
3. Complete at-home rapid antigen testing once a week, on Sunday or Wednesday, with the understanding that rapid antigen testing interval, frequency, and criteria could change based on COVID-19 status in the Hospital or community;*

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4. Submit validation that rapid antigen test was completed via an electronic tool, details of which will be available as soon as possible;
5. Keep a record (photo) of the test and comply with auditing requirements as outlined by OHS.

*The requirement to complete at-home rapid antigen testing once a week is applicable while the Hospital's internal pandemic response is Green or Yellow. Please note that the frequency of required testing will change if the Hospital's internal pandemic response is Orange or Red.

This procedure is subject to modification by the Hospital or by an overseeing body such as the province or the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

If you have any questions please talk to your Manager.

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.

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