

HOSPITAL ACTIVITY UPDATE



Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
Centre

October 20, 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
5	0	0	2	Green (Recover and Prevent)

According to the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, Northwestern Ontario proudly boasts a population that is 87.2 percent fully vaccinated with 92.6 percent of our residents having received their first dose. The hard work of our vaccination team has also seen the Hospital reach the top tier of vaccination efforts with an amazing 95.4 percent inoculation rate among staff. We continue to work on educating the unvaccinated on the benefits as we know the double vaccine is currently the best defense against COVID-19.

The number of active COVID-19 cases in our region remains low. Along with being fully vaccinated, consistent adherence to safety protocols is vital to maintaining a safe and healthy environment in our Hospital. All staff, professional staff, volunteers and learners are reminded to complete their entrance screening prior to entering the building before a scheduled shift. Everyone is required to wear appropriate PPE, practice proper hand hygiene and follow physical distancing guidelines. All Hospital COVID-19 updates and resources are available on the iNtranet at <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information/>.

Emergency Nurses Week, celebrated annually from October 10-16, is dedicated to celebrating and recognizing the passion, persistence and dedication to patient care that our Emergency Department and trauma nurses display every single day. These health care professionals focus on the immediate care of patients who require medical attention to avoid long-term disability or death. It is a complex role, treating the trigger event for the emergency visit as well as communicating with the patient, the families, and the care team. This front-line role is very people-centered, not only physically but emotionally too. People in emergency situations often feel distraught and upset. So, the emergency nurse must treat the emotions as well as the emergency medical issue. It can be chaotic, especially if the cause of the visit is a violent incident. Please join us in thanking our emergency nurses for their tremendous contributions to patient care.

This week, we're celebrating several other departments and professions within our Hospital that play a vital role in helping us provide quality patient care.

Our Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) department has worked tirelessly, even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure the safest practices are in place and followed for both patient and worker. Typically, National Infection Control Week (October 18-22) is about highlighting those efforts and educating staff and the community regarding infection prevention and control. This year we would like to not only remind everyone of the importance of self-education on this subject, but to celebrate and recognize the work and dedication our IPAC department provides our Hospital.

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**.

healthy
together

En santé
ensemble

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Dietary professionals, like the dedicated Food Services team at our Hospital, work hard to ensure that our staff and patients stay well-nourished and healthy. It's no small task. From January to September 2021, the team handled 8000 lbs of bananas, 3060 kg of diced carrots, 2860 kg of beef, 2720 kg of turkey breast, 3200 lbs of apples, and 1466 lbs of lettuce. Food Services Staff Appreciation Week (October 18-24) reminds us to thank these wonderful individuals for being an essential part of the entire health care system.

Health care plant maintenance, planning and engineering staff are our in-house professionals responsible for facilities management, planning, development and maintenance of complex health care systems, equipment and facilities. Our health care facilities rely on these staff to provide the necessary skills and resources to develop and manage the environment of care within our organization in an efficient manner and with the patient in mind. October 17-23 is Health Care Facilities and Engineering Week, and it is meant to recognize and honour the plant, maintenance, planning and engineering staff on behalf of all who benefit from them. Please join us in thanking these staff members for their contributions during this week and beyond.

October is Occupational Therapy Month. Occupational Therapy is a health profession that empowers people of all ages to overcome barriers in their everyday lives so they can do more and live better. Through solutions created for each individual's unique needs, Occupational Therapists (OTs) help people of all ages and abilities recover from an injury or illness to participate in day-to-day activities, and experience life to the fullest. An OT works with the patient, their family member, or a health care team to identify and address the problems the patient may have with everyday activities. Together, the patient and their OT find solutions that will enable the patient to maintain function, regain skills, develop new skills and much more. Interested in learning more about Occupational Therapy? Visit the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists website at <https://www.caot.ca/site/aboutot/whatisot?nav=sidebar>.

Lastly, flu season is upon us. Influenza, commonly known as "the flu", is a respiratory infection caused by the influenza virus. It's contagious and spreads rapidly from person to person. Fortunately, the influenza vaccine is safe and effective and can benefit people of all ages. Even if you're healthy, getting immunized against influenza is a great way to protect those around you. Our Hospital's Occupational Health & Safety team is offering influenza vaccine for staff, physicians and volunteers each weekday until October 29th, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, outside of Auditorium A/B (3rd level). No appointments are required. Staff who attend are asked to wear short sleeves and are reminded to wear a mask and maintain physical distancing while waiting.