

HOSPITAL ACTIVITY UPDATE



October 27, 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 | 2 | 1 | 17 | Green (Recover and Prevent) |

It is important that we remain vigilant with hand hygiene and PPE practices in order to protect our staff, patients, and the health care system. All workers (which includes all staff, professional staff, volunteers, learners and contractors) at our Hospital are required to wear eye protection and a mask while working in areas where they are unable to maintain two metres of distance from their coworkers. This is especially important in clinical areas (inpatient and outpatient) or when providing patient care in a non-clinical area within two metres. This means that when any worker enters a clinical area (inpatient and outpatient), eye protection and a mask is mandatory at all times. View the memo from October 25th for more details:

<https://comms.tbrhsc.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Memo-Clarification-of-Eye-Protection-Guidelines-October-25-2021-1.pdf>

Pharmacy Technician Day, celebrated annually on October 19th, is a great time to highlight the critical role Pharmacy technicians have within the health care sector. These technicians assist our pharmacists to process prescriptions, dispense medications, compound IVs, help patients with over-the-counter medicines to treat their ailments and perform other vital duties that help keep our pharmacies running smoothly. They inspire us all with their compassion, care, and commitment.

October 25-29 is Canadian Patient Safety Week. This year, the theme highlights Care Partners (CPs) and Essential Care Partners (ECPs) and how they are vital members of the care team who provide consistent support to a loved one throughout their care journey – improving safety, care and the well-being of all involved. For more details, resources and education, visit <https://www.healthcareexcellence.ca/en/what-we-do/what-we-do-together/canadian-patient-safety-week/>

Every October, Children's Aid Societies across Ontario raise awareness about the important role that individuals and communities play in supporting vulnerable children, youth, and families through the provincial Dress Purple Day campaign on October 27th. The campaign is more important than ever, since the COVID-19 pandemic has created additional stressors for families, and in some cases has increased risk for the well-being and safety of children and youth. Thank you to all Hospital staff who wore purple today to show support for the children, youth and families in our community facing challenges. To learn more about the Dress Purple Day campaign, visit www.oacas.org/dresspurpleday.

We're celebrating Respiratory Therapy Week from October 24-30. Respiratory Therapists (RTs) are highly-skilled health care professionals. They have specialized medical expertise and use their knowledge and skills to provide safe, high-quality care. If you have medical problems that may be caused by cardiorespiratory or respiratory-related issues, RTs are the experts who will work with you to diagnose, treat and manage your

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Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
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condition. Within our Hospital, there are always RTs working hard 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across all patient populations. They can be found in the Emergency Department (ED), Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Neonatal ICU, Operating Room (OR), pulmonary function lab, stress lab, and are on call for all inpatients. RTs perform a number of vital roles throughout our Hospital. They are called for all high-risk deliveries including C-sections, traumas, conscious sedations, cardioversions, puffer administration and education, arterial blood gases, insertion of arterial catheters, non-invasive mechanical ventilation, (like CPAPs or BiPAPs), high flow oxygen therapy, and so much more. Join us in thanking our RTs for their vital contributions to patient care.

Congratulations to Caroline Fanti, Director of Regional Surgical Services at our Hospital for being recognized as the Innovation Hero of the Year at the RBC Innovation Awards on October 20th. This award was graciously sponsored by Lakehead University's Office of Innovation, Partnerships and Economic Development. Caroline and her team designed and implemented a unique clinical service delivery model program that ensures patients in Northwestern Ontario receive care as close to home as possible, experience lower wait times, equity with access to care and assurance of nationally recognized best practice standards. For a full list of winners, visit <https://www.nwoinnovation.ca/rbc-innovation-awards-2021>.

Each year, the Volunteer Association to our Hospital joins us in celebrating Nursing Week by awarding an Education Bursary to a nurse who is continuing their studies at a diploma, degree or graduate level program. Pandemic restrictions made it necessary to modify the 2021 Nursing Week celebrations, especially as our volunteers could not be on-site. Thankfully, our volunteers are back and we were able to present this year's Volunteer Association Nursing Education Bursary to a very deserving nurse, Kayla Nahkala. Kayla is a Registered Nurse on the 3A Surgical Patient Care Unit while she also works towards completing her Masters degree in Nursing at Athabasca University. The Volunteer Association to our Hospital commends Kayla for her commitment to expanding her knowledge and pursuing her educational goals. Congratulations Kayla!

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. Remember, even if you're healthy, getting immunized against influenza is a great way to protect you, your family, friends and co-workers.

Lastly, our Hospital would like to extend sincere condolences to the family of Dr. Annabella Zawada. She was a very well-respected doctor and her work founding the Umbrella Clinic helped better the lives of so many people that needed health care services across our community. We hope her legacy and passion for helping others will inspire others to do so as well in Thunder Bay and beyond.