



Thunder Bay Regional  
**Health Sciences  
Centre**

Thunder Bay Regional  
**Health Research  
Institute**

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Dear Patient,

For the protection of all, masks are mandatory while inside the Hospital to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. This measure is in alignment with the City of Thunder Bay, the Thunder Bay District Health Unit and Ontario Health directions. Wearing a mask helps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and helps protect people who are around you. Since some people may have the COVID-19 virus and not know it, everyone must wear a mask when in the hospital.

It is understandable that wearing a mask may be an inconvenience and a discomfort for some individuals, but we must protect the health and safety of all patients and staff within our hospital. As the only acute care hospital in Northwestern Ontario, an outbreak of COVID-19 would threaten access to specialized acute care for all people in our region. As such, your request to enter our Hospital without a mask is denied. If you do have a medical reason for not being able to wear a mask, you must provide signed documentation from your health care provider to confirm this. However, there are very few medical reasons that restrict the use of wearing a mask.

Providing you and all patients with safe access to care is our utmost priority. I strongly encourage you to reconsider your stance regarding your use of a mask so that we can provide care in a manner that is safe for everyone. If you do not have your own mask, one will be provided when you arrive at the Hospital.

The Hospital will not deny your access to this hospital for your urgent medical needs.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during these difficult and unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Wintermans  
Executive Vice President, Communications and Corporate Relations  
COVID-19 Lead  
Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre