

# COVID-19 UPDATE

## Keeping You Safe



Thunder Bay Regional  
Health Sciences  
Centre

To: All Staff, Professional Staff, Learners and Volunteers

From: Jennifer Wintermans, EVP, Communications & Corporate Relations, COVID-19 Lead;  
Amy Carr, Interim CHRO, Director, Human Resources

Date: December 21, 2021

RE: **Guidelines for Staff Holiday Gatherings**

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As the number of COVID-19 positive cases continues to increase significantly both locally and across the province, our ongoing diligence with public health measures is imperative.

On December 17th, the Ontario government released updated COVID-19 restrictions to be put in place throughout the holiday season. These restrictions were introduced, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, due to the rapidly increasing cases of the Omicron variant within our province, as well as the significant transmissibility of the variant. In accordance, as we celebrate outside of work with family and friends, we must all adhere to the following guidelines:

**For indoor gatherings (non-workplace):**

- Maximum of 10 people.
- If the group is all [fully vaccinated](#) individuals, you may consider removing your mask if everyone is comfortable.

**For outdoor gatherings:**

- Maximum of 25 people.
- If the group is all [fully vaccinated](#) individuals, masks and physical distancing are not necessary.

If you choose to gather this holiday season, please ensure you do so safely by following the provincial restrictions. Get fully vaccinated, as well your third dose when you become eligible, for the best protection against COVID-19. Practice physical distancing by maintaining a space of two metres from people outside of your household, indoors and outdoors. Keep your social circle small and avoid the 3 Cs: closed spaces, crowded places and close contacts.

**For workplace holiday festivities, please remember that all current infection prevention and control (IPAC) guidelines for food consumption, distancing, hand hygiene, masks and eye protection are still in place. Please celebrate together safely.**

Thank you for your continued admirable hard work and commitment to keeping our patients, staff and the community safe.

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For more information, visit <https://www.tbdhu.com/socializing> or refer to the most recent Ontario Regulations for current rules, regulations, and guidance found here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/celebrate-safely-during-covid-19>

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**.

healthy  
together

En santé  
ensemble