

COVID-19 UPDATE

Keeping You Safe



To: All Staff, Professional Staff, Learners and Volunteers

From: Jennifer Wintermans, EVP, Communications and Corporate Relations, COVID-19 Lead

Date: December 31, 2021

RE: **Hospital COVID-19 Response Level Moves from Orange to Red**

In response to the increase in cases of COVID-19 in our community and across the province, as well as the impact of the highly transmissible Omicron variant, our Hospital has moved its internal COVID-19 Pandemic Response Level from **Orange (Restrict)** to **Red (Control)**, effective immediately.

As of today, our Hospital has eleven patients admitted who have tested positive for COVID-19. Of those, four are in the Intensive Care Unit. Locally, there are 380 active cases, and Ontario is reporting 16,713 new cases.

The decision to increase our response from Level Orange to Red is based on multiple factors and we are taking additional measures to ensure the safety of all against the Omicron variant. Moving to Response **Level Red (Control)** will aim to decrease traffic and unknown transmission throughout the hospital, while continuing to balance health human resource shortages and optimize care services.

As part of Response Level Red (Control), the following components have been reviewed and prepared to action:

- Level 3 Clinical Service Continuity Assessment Team - regarding clinical services ramp down
- Testing all new admissions for COVID-19
- Volunteers and Learners
- Activating the dedicated COVID-19 care unit
- Education and Simulation
- Enhancing Remote Work
- Clinical Service Ramp Down
- Contractors and Vendors Onsite
- Essential Care Partners

Any changes to the above operational activities will be communicated through additional communications as required.

Please note **that eye protection continues to be mandatory in all areas of the Hospital** and all locations (with the exception of being in an office alone, at a desk in a shared office space when 2 meters of distancing can be maintained or while consuming food or beverage in a designated space).

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Thunder Bay Regional
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As a reminder, all eligible health care workers in our Hospital who are eligible to receive a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine are also encouraged to do so. The intent of the third dose is to increase protection that may have decreased over time and will provide added protection against new variants of COVID-19.

All response activities are evaluated daily by Senior Leadership Council and Leaders across the organization to ensure they are effective and appropriate.

Our appreciation is extended to you and your teams for all you do as we continue to be available for the community we serve.

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