

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

Date: December 24, 2021

RE: **Mandatory Masking for All Individuals at All TBRHSC Sites**

The health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients and community members is our utmost priority. **To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, anyone entering our facility locations must wear a procedure mask at all times and abide by our organizational policy. The Ontario Government mandates the use of masks in indoor settings such as hospitals.**

This applies to all TBRHSC sites including 984 Oliver Road, 1040 Oliver Road and the COVID-19 Assessment Centre. Individuals entering any of these sites with a cloth mask will be asked to remove and don the provided procedure mask during the screening process.

Anyone entering and using the Hospital:

- Will be provided with a procedure mask at either the screening desk or outpatient area including Emergency, Labor & Delivery, and outpatient clinics in other buildings;
- Masks are to be replaced when damaged, soiled or wet.
- Masks may not be removed unless consuming food or beverage.

Anyone refusing to wear a mask are not permitted entrance into our Hospital. Anyone refusing to wear a mask once on the premises should be kindly encouraged to wear a mask. If the individual is a patient then please reference the guidance document for inpatient and outpatient mandatory masking found here: <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Guidance-Documents-Inpatient-and-Outpatient-Mandatory-Masking-December-15-2021.pdf>.

As well, please provide the patient a mask refusal letter and inform of the importance of wearing a mask. The letter can be found here: <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Mask-Refusal-Letter-December-2021.pdf>

Some common messaging to encourage the use of a mask with any individual is provided below:

- Wearing a mask helps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and helps protect you and people who are around you.
- Wearing a mask protects you as some people may have the COVID-19 virus and not know it.
- Being fully vaccinated does not exclude you from masking requirements.
- Wearing a mask securely covers an individual's mouth, nose and chin and can act as a barrier that reduces the chances of respiratory droplets spreading the virus to other people, patients and your family.

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If the individual not wearing a mask is an Essential Care Partner (ECP) then consider contacting the Care Partner Liaison to ensure compliance with masking requirements as an ECP.

All staff and professional staff are encouraged to support this important safety measure. Should you see someone who is not wearing a mask, please kindly remind them that masks are mandatory for everyone's protection and provide information as to where a mask can be obtained for their use while on site.

If an issue arises, please contact your Manager or the covering Manager. Additionally, if the situation should escalate, call Security. If the patient refuses to leave the premises, Security will contact the Thunder Bay Police Department for assistance.

Thank you for your continued commitment to keeping each other and our patients safe.

Please contact your Manager with any questions or concerns.

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