

COVID-19 UPDATE

Keeping You Safe



To: TBRHSC Senior Leadership Team, Directors, Managers, Coordinators, and Physician Leads

From: Jennifer Wintermans, EVP, Communications and Corporate Relations, COVID-19 Lead and Amy Carr, Interim Chief Human Resources Officer

Date: January 11, 2022

RE: **Return to Work Crisis Status Designation**

The number of Omicron cases is rising rapidly in Ontario such that Ministry of Health guidance indicates that individuals with symptoms indicative of COVID-19 are presumed infected and should initiate timely self-isolation to prevent further transmission.

As our Hospital continues to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19, we will be required to balance broader isolation guidelines and current staffing levels with the needs of our patients and the overall impact to hospital operations.

As such, a process has been developed to request Return to Work (RTW) Crisis Status designation in situations where staffing deficits have, or are anticipated to reach a critical level. Crisis Status is a measured approach that supports early RTW protocols for asymptomatic employees who are at home isolating due to a COVID-19 positive household contact. In order to meet the threshold for Crisis Status designation, it is essential that all other mitigation strategies have been exhausted.

To request Crisis Status designation, the most responsible Director or Physician Leader must initiate the process by completing the "Crisis Status" Staffing Request Form at:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/1b582d6d61764782986db927632df1c2>

To facilitate quick and thorough decision-making, please ensure that the request form provides as much information about the staffing situation and its impact as possible.

If the urgency of the circumstance suggests an **immediate** response, a decision can be expedited through the Incident Management System by contacting both Jennifer Wintermans winterj@tbh.net and Amanda Walberg walberga@tbh.net, or afterhours through the Senior Leader On-call.

Please refer to the [Return to Work Crisis Status Designation Guidance Document](#) for further information regarding this process, found on the iNtranet, <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information/>.