

# HOSPITAL ACTIVITY UPDATE



**January 20, 2022**

COVID-19 Status as of 10:00 am:

Total Positive Cases in the Hospital	Positive Cases in the ICU	Number of Patients on the 3B COVID-19 Care Unit	Active COVID-19 Cases in the TBDHU district	Hospital Staff Vaccination Rate	Our Hospital's Internal Pandemic Response Level
26	8	15	324	97.4%	<b>Grey (Lockdown)</b>

In response to the increase in COVID-19 admissions to our Hospital 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 Red (Control) to Grey (Lockdown). As part of this response, our Hospital will implement new measures to protect the health and safety of staff, patients and the community such as testing all new admissions for COVID-19, ramping down clinical services and limiting access for Essential Care Partners, contractors and vendors. Patients are allowed one Essential Care Partner (ECP), with exceptions being vetted through unit managers to IMT. Hot zones will only have ECPs that are essential to the care of patients, with exceptions being vetted through onsite unit leadership. Areas in outbreak will not be allowed to have ECPs, and will only be permitted under special circumstances. Any requests for exceptions will need to be addressed through managers. There is no change to ECP guidelines for palliative care and patients will continue to be supported as per previous guidelines. Read the memo from January 17th for more details: <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/informed/hospitals-internal-covid-19-pandemic-response-moves-to-level-grey/>.

Breaches of Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) protocols in common spaces around our Hospital have been a suspected source of COVID-19 outbreaks. Staff must be mindful of IPAC protocols when using break rooms and adhere to the recommended safety guidelines for common areas such as lounges, break rooms and meeting rooms. For safety guidelines and a list of additional spaces for staff working within the Hospital to use in a safer and physically-distant manner, please refer to the memo from January 18th: <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/informed/break-room-capacity-and-ipac-requirements/>

Our Hospital's COVID-19 Assessment Centre has expanded its range of services, and in addition to testing, the Centre is now offering clinical COVID-19 assessments. Under the Ministry of Health's guidance, assessment centres are adapting their testing spaces to begin providing care to patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms and who would benefit from a clinical assessment and treatment. These spaces will also serve as an Emergency Department (ED) alternative so that our staff can provide care to others who are seriously ill in our community.

Patients will be able to access this assessment through referral from the Emergency Department, Primary Care, Public Health or Telehealth Ontario. Appointments must be made in advance. Walk-in appointments will not be available. For those who meet eligibility requirements, Monoclonal Antibody Therapy is also available. Patients will be assessed by a nurse and physician and provided with symptom management advice or referred for additional services. This program provides treatment for outpatients with COVID-19 who are at high-risk of progression to severe illness. While the first line of defense against COVID-19 is vaccination, this treatment will help to address the growing number of hospitalizations in high-risk individuals. Physicians who wish to refer a patient are asked to use the referral

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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.

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form on the Hospital's website: <https://tbrhsc.net/monoclonal-antibody-therapy/>. For more information, please contact [monoclonalinfusionclinic@tbh.net](mailto:monoclonalinfusionclinic@tbh.net).

Firstline is a health care technology partner that mobilizes local infectious disease guidelines for organizations. It offers a customizable platform that helps health care professionals use antimicrobials wisely and improve patient outcomes. The Antimicrobial Stewardship Program is asking Firstline users at our Hospital to provide valuable feedback on their experience with the app. Please complete the short survey before January 30th:

<https://bit.ly/FirstlineSurvey-TBRHSC>

Finally, all Hospital staff are invited to attend a pair of virtual presentations taking place next week. Encounters in Bioethics 2021-2022 is offering a free webinar, '*Health Care Ethics, Pain and the Opioid Crisis*', on January 27th from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm, with presenter Dr. Travis N. Rieder from the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics (<https://bit.ly/EncountersInBioethics-Jan27>). The next presentation in the Health Research Speaker Series will feature, Dr. Brianne Wood, Joint Social Accountability and Learning Health Systems Associate Scientist with the Health Research Institute, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and our Hospital. Join her as she discusses '*Implementing and evaluating socially accountable learning health systems in Northern Ontario*' on January 27th, from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm (<https://bit.ly/HRSpeakerSeries-Jan27>).

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