

# HOSPITAL ACTIVITY UPDATE



**January 5, 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
15	2	8	276	96.7%	<b>Red (Restrict)</b>

Our Hospital has moved its Internal Pandemic Responsive Level from Orange (Restrict) to Red (Control). This is a result of a sharp increase in COVID-19 positive cases in our city and across Northwestern Ontario. Please note that moving to Response Level Red allows us to increase restrictions on both learners and volunteers as well as some of our external care partners with the goal to reduce in-Hospital traffic and continue to be cautious with our COVID-19 pandemic response. In the coming weeks, we anticipate that our public health partners will continue to evolve their guidance as Omicron continues to spread. We will continue to assess our operations and prepare to respond rapidly in order to effectively balance response activities and the provision of health care services.

Our Hospital's Incident Management Team (IMT) continues to meet daily given the fast-changing nature of COVID-19, provincial regulations, and their impact on operations. Ensuring the availability of specialized acute care services is a priority and we are prepared to respond at all times.

The proactive measures we're currently taking include:

- Opening a dedicated COVID-19 Care Unit on 3B to allow patients to be cared for in a specific type of setting that keeps them and others safe.
- Reducing the allowable number of Essential Care Partners - Inpatients and outpatients will be granted one ECP unless indicated otherwise.
- Pausing non-emergent and non-urgent surgeries and procedures as per Ministry Directive #2 - Patients impacted by this change will be contacted.
- In alignment with [Ministry of Health Guidance](#), and in order to preserve our health human resources, we are adjusting our Assessment Centre operations to support high-risk settings, and specific vulnerable populations.

As a reminder, all 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. Please note that due to the supply shortage of COVID-19 Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, as reported by the Ministry of Health, starting January 4th our onsite vaccination clinic will only offer the Pfizer vaccine for those under 30 years of age only, and Moderna Spikevax will be offered to those 30 years of age and above. This is due to data showing the increase in the number of reports of pericarditis/myocarditis following vaccination for those under 30 with the use of Moderna Spikevax. The use of Moderna Spikevax and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine can be used interchangeably and everyone is encouraged to take whatever booster vaccine is available. With this being said, the use of

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Thunder Bay Regional  
Health Sciences  
Centre

Moderna Spikevax is safe and effective when fighting off COVID-19 and is noted by the Ministry of Health as possibly more durable than Pfizer-BioNTech.

Fully vaccinated health care workers (including staff, professional staff, learners and volunteers) at our Hospital who have received their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at least three months (84 days) ago, are eligible to receive their third dose by drop on or by booking an appointment at the Hospital's onsite vaccination clinic: <https://tbdhu.canadaehs.com/tbdhu/hospital/>.

Be sure to send your vaccination receipt to Occupational Health and Safety (ohs@tbh.net) as soon as possible, whether you have received your first, second or third dose from the Hospital's clinic or an external source such as your primary health care provider or the Thunder Bay District Health Unit.

Screening is one of the infection prevention measures that can help slow the spread of COVID-19. In accordance with recommendations from the Ministry of Health, the following change has been made to the Hospital's COVID-19 entrance screening questions on the Redcap app ([https://is.gd/tbrhsc\\_covid](https://is.gd/tbrhsc_covid)) and the paper version self-screening tool.

The new symptom related question now reads as follows: *In the past 5 days, have you experienced one of the following: Fever and or Chills, Cough, Shortness of Breath/Difficulty Breathing, Decrease or Loss of taste or smell OR two or more of the following symptoms: Runny Nose/Nasal Congestion, Headache, Extreme Fatigue, Sore Throat, Muscle Aches/Joint Pain, Gastrointestinal Symptoms (ex. Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea).*

The screening tool is the official and central tracking system for screening results. All staff MUST perform self-screening before entering the Hospital. Please read each screening question carefully to ensure safe and accurate admittance and follow any failed screen protocols. To review what happens when a failed screen occurs, please visit <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/informed/reminder-on-covid-19-entrance-screening-and-failed-screen-process/>.

An important note to remember is 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 two meters of distancing can be maintained or while consuming food or beverage in a designated space).

On January 4th, an outbreak of COVID-19 was declared on the 3A Surgical Unit in our Hospital. All restrictions are in place. All patients identified as having an exposure to this outbreak have been isolated with appropriate additional precautions. New admissions will not be sent to 3A until the outbreak is declared over. Essential Care Partners will only be permitted on a case-by-case basis, following the process outlined in the Care Partner/ Essential Care Partner Guidance Document: <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Guidance-COVID-19-ECPCP-Modified-for-Red-v10-Dec-31-2021.pdf>

Infection Prevention and Control encourages everyone to continue applying routine practices of hand hygiene, proper use of PPE, cleaning shared equipment and the appropriate screening of all patients. Please set an example to staff and students and assist us by maintaining compliance and due diligence. Staff with questions regarding potential exposures on 3A should contact Occupational Health and Safety. A notice will be sent when the outbreak is declared over. For more information, please contact Infection Prevention and Control at extension 6094.

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