

## Summary: March 10, 2021

View the session: <https://cast.tbrhsc.net/townhall/archived/>

### Staff Vaccination Update

- 16,000 doses of vaccine have been given to date.
- Vaccines are arriving as anticipated, but remain limited.
- Our role continues to be to provide vaccination support as directed by the TBDHU.
- Our vaccine clinic is focusing on health care workers
- All staff are expected to receive codes within the week, if they have not already received one.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose Intervals Update

- The Ministry of Health – Under the Direction of Dr. David Williams, mandated the interval between doses to up to 16 weeks.
- Those who received their 1<sup>st</sup> dose, and are scheduled for their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose will be contacted to reschedule their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose to 16 weeks after their 1<sup>st</sup> dose, as per this direction.
- Extending this interval maximizes the number of 1<sup>st</sup> doses administered, increase community protection and contributes to health equity.
- Refer to the memo from Dr. David Williams for more details: <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Dr.-David-Williams-Vaccine-Memo-March-2021.pdf>
- Current evidence indicates high vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19 for several weeks after the 1<sup>st</sup> dose.
- To learn about vaccine intervals, view the video at <http://player.vimeo.com/video/510359261>.

### How are the COVID-19 'variants of concern' more transmissible?

- Variants of concern were highlighted in terms of the increased transmissibility
- Some variants can be associated with more severe disease and possibility of increased mortality.

### Are there recommendations to protect from these variants?

- Current vaccines may offer only reduced protection against some variants of concern.
- Studies are underway and modifications to current vaccines are being investigated.
- The importance of adhering to public health guidelines to keep variants from establishing themselves was reinforced.

### Is the variant in our community?

- No variants of concern have been identified in the TBDHU area.
  - The UK B.1.1.7 variant was identified in Dryden.
  - A cluster of the South African variant was identified in North Bay.

### Staff isolation due to contact with COVID-19

Please refer to <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Memo-Staff-isolation-due-to-COVID-19-and-Extension-of-Paid-Leave-Entitlements-March-1-2021-1.pdf>

### Given the current situation, will staff be limited to one work location again?

- There are no changes at this time.

## **Essential Care Partners (ECP)**

- While our hospital is in the Red (Control) response, only Essential Care Partners (ECP) are permitted in our hospital under specific criteria.
- Please refer to [https://comms.tbrhsc.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/1.COVID19-ECP-and-CP-guidance-document\\_Feb1.21.pdf](https://comms.tbrhsc.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/1.COVID19-ECP-and-CP-guidance-document_Feb1.21.pdf).
- Requests for ECP/CP exceptions can be directed to your manager.
- Patients who are denied an ECP should be aware of the appeals process, available at [https://tbrhsc.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Essential-Care-Partner-Appeal-Process\\_Dec2020.pdf](https://tbrhsc.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Essential-Care-Partner-Appeal-Process_Dec2020.pdf).
- ECP information is available on our website <https://tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information/information-for-patients-essential-care-partners-and-care-partners-during-covid-19-pandemic/>.

## **Voluntary Self-Identification for Indigenous Patients**

- Will be implemented March 16, 2021.
- Patients will be able to self-identify at all points of registration or online at [www.tbrhsc.net](http://www.tbrhsc.net).
- Enables the care team to connect patients to healing supports and resources.
- Self-identification information is confidential.

## **Will Professional Staff be able to get vaccinated in Phase 1?**

- Professional staff, except for those with supportive privileges, would have already received codes to book their vaccinations.
- Professional staff with supportive privileges would receive a code in the coming weeks.
- Professional Staff who has not received your code should contact Medical Affairs.

## **Will those who have been vaccinated need to continue screening and wearing PPE?**

- All vaccinated staff, including locums, must continue to screen s and wear appropriate PPE.

## **I am concerned about the low volume of vaccines being administered as reported by the TBDHU. Do we expect the volume of vaccines being administered to be ramped up?**

- Getting doses into arms as soon as possible is a shared priority.
- Vaccine supplies are now reliable, but still limited.
- Vaccines are administered in a manner that prioritizes the highest risk in the community.

## **What is the mandate of the Incident Management Team (IMT)? What are the various roles?**

- The mandate of the IMT is to manage our Hospital's COVID-19 incident response. Various Roles:
  - CEO
  - Command Staff includes: Incident Manager, Liaison Officer, Information Officer, Safety Officer, Specialists, Medical Specialists and Emergency Preparedness Specialists.
  - General Staff includes: Planning Section Head, Operations Section Head, Logistics Section Head, Finance/Admin Section Head.
- Roles are assigned based on the tasks, the level of authority required for an effective response, the knowledge or skill sets required, and the anticipated length of the role.
- One person may hold more than one role as the scale and scope of the incident evolves.
- Each Section may include Branches, Teams, Task Forces, etc. and will expand and contract based on the scale and scope of the incident.