

Summary: January 12, 2022

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COVID-19 Status Update as of January 12th @ 10am

Total Positive Cases in Hospital	Positive Cases in 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 Response Level
28	2	18	353	97%	Red (Control)

- Provincially, there are 9,783 new cases. 3,348 are in hospital and of those, 505 are in ICU. There are 265 on ventilators.
- There are currently 346 active cases in the Northwestern Health Unit district.
- There are 290 outbreaks in long-term care facilities across the province. Many the cases are staff.
- Keep in mind that the real numbers are a lot higher than what is being reported due to decreased testing and the shift in focus to the vulnerable and high-risk settings.
- We expect to have more details on return to school later today.
- Our Hospital's internal response is Red (Control).
- Our Incident Management Team (IMT) was reactivated on December 20th. IMT meets daily to access operations and Ministry guidelines, and determine any response or action required.
- Vaccination remains a priority for the health units.
- Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) has reported that half of 5 – 11 year olds have received at least one dose of the vaccine.
- Our vaccine clinic is continuing to offer vaccines this week on Friday from 8:30am – 4pm. Next week, we will begin offering vaccines on Wednesdays only from 8:30am – 4pm.

Mandatory Masking and Eye Protection and Breakroom Guidelines

- Failure to adhere to PPE requirements has resulted in several avoidable workplace exposures, which have put significant strain on our already stretched health human resources.
- ALL staff, professional staff, learners, volunteers, and contractors while in any Hospital location, must wear a mask and eye protection immediately upon entry until exit and at all times.
- Adhering to PPE requirements is very important when it comes to contact tracing and exposure to COVID-19.

- Wearing PPE protects you, protects your colleagues and our patients and families.
- Masks and eye protection can only be removed if you are in an approved break area when eating, drinking and when able to maintain a distance of 2m/6ft or more from others (this includes patients and co-workers) or if you are in a private office or workspace.
- This includes all TBRHSC sites (including 980, 984, 1040 Oliver Road and Munro Street).
- Please ensure staff are not adding chairs to break rooms and exceeding occupancy levels.
- Staff need to abide by the masking and eye protection rules in break areas when not eating, drinking and if not able to maintain the 2m.
- Staff are not able to walk around break areas without masks and eye protection.

COVID-19 Assessment Centre Update

- The COVID-19 Assessment Centre is following Ontario Health's PCR Testing Eligibility criteria. The new eligibility was released on December 30th.
- Eligible individuals include:
 - Patient-facing health care workers
 - Staff, residents, essential care providers, and visitors in hospitals and congregate living settings
 - Underhoused or homeless
- Or people who are asymptomatic and:
 - First Nation, Inuit, and Métis communities and individuals traveling into these communities for work
 - High-risk contacts and asymptomatic/symptomatic people in the context of confirmed or suspected outbreak
- Other individuals with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 are presumed positive and they should follow isolation and/or self-monitoring guidelines.
- The Assessment Centre (AC) provides swabbing for symptomatic staff and high-risk contacts as identified by Occupational Health and Safety (OHS). OHS will provide individuals with an appointment time. Please bring your health card, goggles, your name badge and identify yourself as staff.
- The AC provides priority testing through the Public Health Lab for outbreak testing. If you are part of an outbreak and need to be tested please book your appointment online at <https://tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information/>. Please bring your health card, goggles, your name badge and identify yourself as part of outbreak testing. These swabs are sent to the Public Health Lab and may take longer to receive these results than if you have an in-house priority test done.
- Due to volume at times there is a line at the AC. Please dress for the weather and physical distance while in line and in the waiting area.
- Daily appointment times open up for booking at 6 am.
- Household family members do not qualify for a test at the AC at this time.

- The AC is one of 8 sites in the province that have been asked to be pilot sites for Monoclonal Antibody Therapy. There will be more information coming on this in the near future.

Return to Work

- The Ministry of Health has released COVID-19 case management guidance including return to work (RTW) for health care workers (HCWs) with COVID-19 symptoms, exposure and/or infection.
- Guidance includes allowance for expedited RTW to address critical staffing shortages that could negatively impact public health and safety.
- Our Hospital has implemented a balanced approach to RTW that is responsive to both service delivery and staffing needs.
- HCW RTW outside of the conventional guidance will follow work-isolation protocols.
- RTW time lines and testing protocols will vary based on contact type/exposure risk and are based on Hospital response level.
- RTW protocols are monitored for effectiveness and can be adapted under the oversight of IMT.
- HCWs are reminded to utilize the staff screening tool to notify OHS of failed screen results due to symptoms or exposures to ensure timely case management and safe RTW.
- A case-by-case assessment will be done based on your exposure type, the situation, and your work environment. It is important that your manager and OHS are aware so that you can be given the information you need to either self-isolate at home or RTW safely.

Strategic Plan 2026

- Strategic Plan 2026 is now complete. We have our directions, goals and objectives. However, our actions, indicators and targets remain in development.
- We are going to pause on a robust release of the strategic plan as we are busy as an organization and as a community responding to the global pandemic. Instead, we will move ahead with a soft launch. We will move forward and embed these core components of our strategic plan our work.
- Visual reminders will be installed throughout our Hospital, online and across our social media channels that will highlight the 4 strategic directions and 5 enablers
 - Strategic Directions
 - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
 - Patient Experience
 - Staff Experience
 - Research, Innovation and Learning

- Enablers of our Sustainable Future
 - Advance Digital Health
 - Develop a Clinical Services Plan
 - Advance Partnerships and System Integration for Better Health Outcomes
 - Achieve Operational Sustainability and Accountability

If we work at a facility outside of TBRHSC that is in outbreak, are we able to continue working at the Hospital?

We do not currently have multi-employer restrictions. Staff are able to work for multiple organizations as long as they are following the guidelines. If you are working in an outbreak facility and you have been exposed, you need to complete your daily screening tool before every shift because this will trigger case management if there was an exposure and it will notify OHS.

What are the testing options for symptomatic household members of hospital staff?

According to the provincial document that was released on Dec 30th, 2021, household family members and the general public that are symptomatic are not eligible for a PCR test at this time.

If the province is restricting PCR testing for the public, where are the current provincial numbers coming from? Will this reporting continue?

The province is currently reviewing how these numbers are reported, as well as the testing process and case and contact management process.

Due to medical issues, it is difficult to breathe while wearing an N95 mask so I'm only able to wear a surgical mask. I do have a medical note from my doctor. Will this exempt me from wearing an N95 mask?

It is best to speak with OHS to make sure this can be addressed.

Are we considering any redeployment for allied health professionals given significant staffing shortages?

- There was a redeployment plan developed previously. The Redeployment Team have been reviewing this plan and preparing so that we are ready to activate these processes when necessary.
- Communications will be shared with leaders shortly about these processes.
- This is continuously reviewed by IMT to ensure that we are ready to respond to the needs of the organization.

What is your outlook on the COVID-19 situation? What do you think we can expect after Jan 26?

The Minister of Health said yesterday, that we can expect a provincial COVID-19 peak at the end of January and a peak in ICU levels in mid-February.

How can the floors be declared in outbreak but the Emergency Department cannot?

The Emergency Department is an outpatient department. The TBDHU does not declare outbreaks in outpatient areas. An outbreak is declared where there is spread of an illness within a unit or when the illness can be traced back to a unit.

What are the in person meeting guidelines at this time?

Virtual meetings are suggested whenever possible.