

To: All Staff, Professional Staff, Learners and Volunteers

From: Jennifer Wintermans, VP, Quality and Corporate Affairs, COVID-19 Lead, and Adam Vinet, VP, Patient Experience and Chief Nursing Executive, Regional VP, Cancer Care Services

Date: December 23, 2022

RE: **Hospital's Internal COVID-19 Pandemic Response Level Moves from Orange (Restrict) to Red (Control)**

Effective, **Friday, December 23, 2022**, our Hospital will be moving its internal COVID-19 Pandemic Response Level from **Orange (Restrict)** to **Red (Control)**.

Over the last week we have been experiencing an increase in the amount of patients with COVID-19 in our Hospital and continue to manage the influx of paediatric patients due to respiratory illness.

The decision to move to Red Level considered all activities and impacts to patient care needs. We recognize that this change may create some angst for patients and families; there are considerations for exception. Please note that any deviation from the ECP guidance can continue to be considered based on patient care needs with compassion and complex variables in mind.

The following restrictions and response activities will continue to be implemented in order to manage the complex fall viruses that we are experiencing:

- **Masking:** Continues to be mandatory for all except for when eating or within a private office. Level 3 masking remains required at all times.
- **Eye Protection:** Mandatory eye protection is required in all patient care areas or clinical settings, and in circumstances where face-to-face contact occurs (less than two metres) with no structural shielding in place.
- **Testing all new Admissions:** Remains status quo and continue to test with exceptions as previously approved (Mat/LD, Outpatients).
- **In-person Meetings:** Meetings should be virtual whenever possible. If an in-person meeting is considered essential, it must be scheduled onsite and follow all required precautions including masking and physical distancing. In-person meetings should also include a virtual option where room size does not permit adequate distancing or to accommodate individuals who are unable to attend on site.
- **Contractors and Vendors:** Essential and high priority contractors and technical support and essential vendors will be permitted. General suppliers and general sales people should not be present on site.

- **Emergency Department Precautions:** N95 masks required when treating patients that fail screening or require airborne and droplet precautions. All staff are required to wear Level 3 procedure mask and eye protection while on unit. Retrieve scrubs from pandemic storage if required.
- **Education and Simulation:** No learner restrictions. All education on COVID-19 and IPAC measures to new staff will continue.
- **Physical Distancing:** Mandatory Physical distancing where able of two metres.
- **Remote Work:** Continue at the discretion of the program/department.
- **Essential Care Partners (ECP) and Care Partners:** Follow [ECP Guidance](#) for Level Red. Only one ECP daily, 0800- 2000 hrs. May increase to two ECPs and/or allow alternate ECP at Manager's discretion when considering alternatives or special circumstances.

All response activities are evaluated on an ongoing basis to ensure they are effective and appropriate by Senior Leadership Council and leaders across the organization.

As a reminder, ECPs should be reminded of mandatory masking and follow the requirements as per ECP guidelines. Physical distancing should continue to be encouraged.

We thank everyone for their continued cooperation and dedication in decreasing the amount of traffic in our Hospital and potential transmission of viruses.

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