



Sunday, March 29, 2020

There are now two confirmed COVID-19 cases in the community, and one in our Hospital. Due to our diligence in preparation and experience in treating presumed cases, processes already in place continue to be followed.

We recognize that a confirmed case in the Hospital may heighten anxiety for some staff. The protection of health care workers - the most precious resource – is a priority. Staff are reminded that support is available through the Employee and Family Assistance Program, which can be accessed by calling 623-7677.

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 puts the entire community on higher alert. Physical distancing remains the absolute best strategy to reduce the spread of infection. Physical distancing will save lives, and it will protect health care resources from being overburdened.

Everyone has a role to play to encourage others to practice physical distancing. If you see people who need reminding, please be kind and informative in your approach. We are all in this together. The government of Ontario is taking measures to encourage physical distancing by issuing an emergency order that bans gatherings of more than five people, with some exceptions.

Many Hospital, Health Research Institute and Professional staff are going above and beyond the call of duty during the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic. If you would like to recognize a colleague, please share a 'Thumbs Up'. It only takes a moment to submit a name and brief description. Send your Thumbs Up to <u>tbrhscgroupsnews@tbh.net</u>, or see the Daily iNformed staff newsletter for more information. Submissions will be shared. The first 100 submissions will receive one preloaded Tim Horton's gift card* (\$3.00 value), generously donated to the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation by our local Tim Hortons Restaurants.

Finally, please be reminded of revised staff travel restrictions, in effect tomorrow. If you travel anywhere outside of Northwestern Ontario as of Monday, March 30, 2020, you must self-isolate for a period of 14 days upon return.

COVID-19 testing update: As of yesterday, Saturday, March 28, just under 300 people have been tested at the COVIS-19 Assessment Centre and in our Hospital.

For questions about COVID-19 testing criteria, please contact the TBDHU's Infectious Disease Program at 807-625-5900 or toll free at 1-888-294-6630.

Local COVID-19 case status: https://www.tbdhu.com/coronavirus

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Provincial COVID-19 case status: <u>https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus#section-0</u>

Canada COVID-19 case status: <u>https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html</u>

COVID-19 Daily Situation Report videos: http://tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information

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

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