

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Travel restrictions reinstated at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre for the protection of all

(Thunder Bay, ON – Monday, October 5, 2020) The health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients, care partners and the community is our utmost priority. In response to the rise in COVID-19 cases in Ontario, travel restrictions will be reinstated at our Hospital.

Effective Tuesday, October 6th, travel outside of Northern Ontario (Parry Sound to the Manitoba border) in the past seven days will result in a failed entrance screening.

These travel restrictions apply to staff, professional staff, patients who require non-urgent care, volunteers, learners, Care Partners and Essential Care Partners and are in line with the recommendations of the Thunder Bay District Health Unit for the protection of our community.

“We understand that travel restrictions can be difficult, especially for those who are separated from friends and family. However, Ontario has entered the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and we must be extra vigilant for the protection of all, including the most vulnerable patients in our care,” said Dr. Stewart Kennedy, COVID-19 Incident Manager. “Travel restrictions in the first wave were integral to limiting the impact of COVID-19 in our community and Hospital. Your continued understanding and cooperation is highly appreciated.”

Patients with Care Partners or Essential Care Partners who have travelled outside of Northern Ontario in the past seven days will be permitted to identify an alternate.

Our Hospital is committed to helping patients and families stay connected and offers virtual visits through FaceTime and Skype. If you would like to arrange a virtual care visit with a patient admitted to our Hospital, please contact the Telemedicine Department at Tel. (807) 684-6711 or email telemedicine@tbh.net between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Travel restrictions can change frequently and will be updated as the situation evolves.

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Healthy Together

Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, a 375-bed academic specialized acute care facility, is a national leader in Patient and Family Centred Care. As the only tertiary care provider in Northwestern Ontario, we provide comprehensive services to a population of over 250,000 residents in a region the size of France.

Effectively addressing the health care needs of patients and families has earned us both Innovation Awards and Leading Practice Designations.

As an academic health sciences centre, we teach the next generation of health care providers and advance medical research. Patients benefit from interprofessional teams of dedicated health care providers and access to leading-edge medical technology and clinical trials.