

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hospital's COVID-19 Assessment Centre takes on Appointment Scheduling for Local Testing

(Thunder Bay, ON – August 7, 2020) The COVID-19 Assessment Centre at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre is taking on a larger role in the community's pandemic response.

Beginning August 10th, the Hospital will assume the testing appointments scheduling duties from the Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) and will be the main contact for booking COVID-19 testing appointments in the community. Local residents who need to schedule a COVID-19 test are asked to dial the following telephone number: (807) 935-8100. Callers will be greeted with an automated message and menu options, which will connect them to staff at the COVID-19 Assessment Centre.

“Testing is an important tool to protect our most vulnerable citizens and helps to contain the spread of COVID-19 in our community,” says Jean Bartkowiak, President and CEO of the Hospital and CEO of the Health Research Institute. “Taking on the appointment scheduling duties streamlines the process. It also supports our TBDHU partner that can focus on helping the community transition safely into the next phase of reopening.”

The COVID-19 Assessment Centre was established by the Hospital in collaboration with the TBDHU to enhance the protection of all patients, staff and community members.

“The TBDHU has been a valuable partner during our pandemic response. Our Hospital is committed to ensuring that residents who call us to schedule a COVID-19 test receive the same exceptional service that they've come to expect from the TBDHU,” adds Bartkowiak.

“Testing for COVID-19 is a very important part in our response to this pandemic, allowing for the rapid identification and follow-up of individuals who have COVID-19 as well as to monitor the overall level of virus in our community,” says Dr. Janet DeMille, Medical Officer of Health & Chief Executive Officer at the TBDHU. “We have had a great collaboration with the Hospital to date for testing. The changes we are making currently will optimize how we are working together to ensure effective and efficient testing access to meet community needs.”

While the contact for testing has changed, residents who have questions about COVID-19 symptoms, self-isolation and monitoring, or testing criteria, should still call the TBDHU at (807) 625-5900 or toll free at 1-888-294-6630.

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MEDIA RELEASE



Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
Centre

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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.

Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre is a leader in Patient and Family Centred Care and a research and teaching hospital proudly affiliated with **Lakehead University, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine and Confederation College.**

Le Centre régional des sciences de la santé de Thunder Bay, un hôpital d'enseignement et de recherche, est reconnu comme un leader dans la prestation de soins et de services aux patients et aux familles et est fier de son affiliation à **l'université Lakehead, à l'École de médecine du Nord de l'Ontario et au collège Confédération.**

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