

# COVID-19 UPDATE

## Keeping You Safe



Thunder Bay Regional  
Health Sciences  
Centre

To: Researchers, TBRHSC SLC, Directors, Managers, TBRHRI EMC

From: Christopher Mushquash, Interim EVP Research

Date: March 19, 2020

RE: Clinical Research at TBRHSC and TBRHRI

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The health and safety of all community members is our utmost priority. That is why Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre is implementing the following restrictions for clinical research effective immediately, until further notice:

### **Hospital Based Research**

Enrollment to all clinical research studies authorized for implementation at 980 and 984 Oliver Road should be suspended until further notice. Exceptions may be made for clinical trials that have limited enrollment and provide a participant with an essential treatment option.

If research participants are required to enter TBRHSC for a research follow-up visit, they should be contacted ahead to ensure they are not showing clinical symptoms of COVID-19. If they are, the appointment should be rescheduled when signs have resolved.

### **General Considerations**

- Researchers should consider whether protocols can be modified or delayed to limit personal contact and prevent unnecessary trips to the Hospital.
- Any changes made to an approved protocol must be made in collaboration with the study Sponsor or Sponsor representative.
- Changes may be implemented immediately if required to reduce an immediate risk to participant(s) as per TCPS2 Article 6.15, however, where possible, the notification to the Research Ethics Board (REB) should be submitted prior to implementing the changes.
- Researchers are responsible for reporting any protocol changes to the REB of record as soon as possible, and complying with any requests received in response.
- This is not a blanket approval for protocol changes, only changes in response to COVID-19 precautions will apply.
- If TBRHSC REB is not the REB of record please reach out to CTO/OCREB directly for guidance.
- Ethics oversight is the responsibility of the Researcher if they are introducing additional risks or making urgent changes prior to REB/CTO/OCREB approval.

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### **Contact**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Research Ethics & Authorization Office:

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Regards,

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Please contact TBDHU for more information regarding COVID-19 screening at 1-888-294-6630 or [www.tbdhu.com/coronavirus](http://www.tbdhu.com/coronavirus). More information is also available at:

<https://files.ontario.ca/moh-coronavirus-info-sheet-english-2020-02-18.pdf>

All Hospital COVID-19 updates are available on the iNtranet at:

<https://comms.tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information/>.