

The Johns Hopkins Hospital Emergency Department Renovation Frequently Asked Questions

Since April 2021, the Johns Hopkins Hospital emergency department has been undergoing an 18-month construction project to make improvements. The renovation will update our waiting room, add patient care spaces, improve patient privacy, improve staff and patient safety and more.

Construction may, at times, require us to relocate patient care to different areas of the emergency department.

Our goal during the renovation is to minimize work disruptions and to continue to offer our patients excellent care and a positive hospital experience.

1. Why did we need to update the emergency department?

The Johns Hopkins Hospital emergency department is undergoing a renovation to improve patient flow and provide crucial safety enhancements that will hopefully better the overall feel and experience for patients and visitors. During the renovation, we hope to keep work disruption to a minimum and to continue to offer our patients excellent care and a positive hospital experience.

2. What is coming/changing with the renovation?

Areas included in the renovation are the reception, triage, waiting room and clinical space where low- and mid-acuity patients are seen. The total area impacted by the renovation is approximately 12,000 square feet. As part of the renovation, we will be adding patient care spaces. We hope the ability to care for more patients at one time will reduce wait times. During the renovation, we plan to keep work disruption to a minimum and to continue to offer our patients excellent care and a positive hospital experience.

3. How long will the renovation take?

The renovation will take place in a phased approach, and is anticipated to be completed by November 2022.

4. How will the construction impact me during this time?

- Patients must enter the emergency department through a new temporary entrance next to the hospital's main entrance on Orleans Street.
- Metal detectors have been installed at the entrance as part of a new safety measure to deter and prevent people from bringing weapons into the hospital. The use of metal detectors is becoming a common practice in health care and other settings, and we have developed standard operating procedures to ensure a positive patient experience and a safe care environment and workplace.

- A temporary waiting room has been set up for patients. It will remain in use until about fall 2022.
- Between fall 2021 and winter 2022, the section of the emergency department where patients with low- and mid-acuity needs are seen will be undergoing a renovation. These patients will be cared for in other areas of the emergency department during this time.
- Between spring 2022 and fall 2022, the waiting room, patient triage and screening areas will be under construction. During this time, patients will be triaged and screened in another area of the emergency department. Patients will continue to use the temporary waiting room throughout the duration of the project.

4. Will the renovation lead to increased wait times?

Patients who need emergency care will be seen in a timely fashion based on our standard protocols and triage system. Some minor delays may be possible; however, we do not anticipate construction will increase the time it takes for us to care for patients.

5. How will you maintain physical distancing during the renovation?

Our Facilities team has created a temporary waiting room that follows physical distancing protocols established by Johns Hopkins Medicine and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This includes seating that is 6 feet apart and signage reminding patients and visitors to maintain physical distancing. Patients will have the option of waiting outside the emergency department; staff members will alert them when it is their turn to be seen.

6. I have trouble breathing. Will there be a lot of dust that I need to worry about?

All the spaces where construction is occurring are under negative pressure so that air stays within the construction area. Our team pays the utmost attention to keeping patient areas that are adjacent to the renovation site dust-free.

