

Infection control measures in the new acute care tower

The COVID-19 pandemic has put infection control at the forefront of our design for the new acute care tower at Royal Columbian Hospital. The tower's design will help to prevent the spread of disease and ensure we are pandemic-ready.

Private rooms

Most of the more than 350 patient beds in the acute care tower will be in private rooms, with their own ensuite bathroom with a sink for handwashing.

All 24 Neonatal Intensive Care Unit rooms will be private, allowing families to stay in the room with their newborn.

Command centre

A command centre will help leaders monitor the flow of patients throughout the hospital using real-time data displayed on digital screens.

The space will operate in addition to an emergency operations centre in the event of a major infection control outbreak or emergency.



Virtual health

Virtual health technology will be available throughout the hospital so clinicians and patients can meet remotely rather than having to come to the hospital.

Infection control rooms

We've added more than 40 isolation rooms that can be used to care for patients with contagious airborne diseases such as measles and tuberculosis. Each room has a separate ventilation system to stop airborne diseases from spreading.

The Emergency Department will include separate isolation rooms for potentially contagious patients to separate them from others.

Multiple small 'anterooms' outside of the isolation rooms will allow staff to put on and remove PPE and wash their hands.

We have added three additional 'anterooms' on the interventional floor to address airborne pathogens as a result of what we've learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.

More space

New and larger family areas will allow for more physical distancing.

Staff lounges will be larger to allow for physical distancing and give staff a place to take breaks on the inpatient units rather than having to go into the neighbourhood.

Flex spaces will be used as needed in the event of an outbreak or an emergency.

Outdoor spaces will allow patients, family members, and staff to get outside without leaving the hospital.

Larger hallways and separate routes for patients and staff will prevent congestion.



Better operating rooms

Larger operating rooms will make physical distancing easier.

All operating rooms will include indigo clean lights to disinfect and kill pathogens.

More sinks

There will be more hand-washing sinks to make it convenient for staff and physicians to follow hand hygiene requirements.

Sinks will be inside and outside patient rooms, in all exam and procedure rooms, in hallways and near unit entrances.

Wall and door upgrades

Walls and glass doors will separate treatment spaces in the Emergency Department to enhance both infection control and privacy.

Many doors will use touchless technology and can be opened and closed automatically by waving hands or swiping cards rather than using handles.

Fraser Health recognizes Royal Columbian Hospital is located on the unceded and traditional homelands of the Coast Salish and Nlaka'pamux Nations.



For more information:

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Follow our progress:



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