



Campaign Update

April 2024



Construction begins on expansion and renovation of Emergency Department

More than seven months ago, Cooley Dickinson and Mass General Brigham representatives and local dignitaries raised painted shovels heaped with dirt to mark the ceremonial groundbreaking of the hospital's Emergency Department renovation and expansion project.



Excitingly, in mid-March, visible signs of construction began with the addition of perimeter fencing and backhoes that removed pavement and sidewalk concrete, signaling the official start of the long-awaited construction project. The renovation project will update a 1970's era Emergency Department, bringing the high quality care you expect and deserve, delivered in a modern, welcoming space.

The fencing in front shields the construction and relocation of the ambulance entrance, which will allow for more emergency vehicles and provide appropriate height for the new, taller ambulances. It will also affect the traffic pattern of those patients visiting the hospital. As part of the current phase of construction, ambulances enter the hospital property via Denniston Place, an access road slightly east of the traffic light on Route 9. EMS Coordinator Sara Burgess, MPH, BSN, RN stated that the modified route will not add additional time to transport patients seeking emergency care. "Our pre-hospital partners have practiced this route and are familiar with the new on-campus traffic pattern," she said.

Internally, a swing space is being created directly behind the current emergency department space, which will be utilized during renovation phases within the current footprint. The entrance and registration for endoscopy is now located in the North Building. Patients who have appointments for endoscopy procedures should look for signs that direct them to the North Building entrance for check-in.

In response to some comments from community members about the construction, President and COO Lynnette Watkins, MD, said the hospital's Emergency Department remains open 24/7, as before, and will remain open throughout the duration of the project. "Patients and their families who come to the Emergency Department arrive during their most vulnerable moments. We will continue to provide a safe, warm, welcoming environment to every patient," she said.

To help patients navigate the construction, patient ambassadors are available at both the Emergency Department and North Building entrances. The ambassadors are customer-service liaisons who will answer questions about parking and provide directions to patients and families.

Development

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Passion for People, Community, and the Arts

Lori Divine-Hudson, most recently co-owner of Gateway City Arts, knows how important a community-minded approach to business is. Having also worked at Cooley Dickinson as a physical therapist, she knows the critical need for access to high quality healthcare.

"I understand, both as a patient and previously a provider, how compassionate care can help someone heal," said Lori. "Cooley has played such an important part of my life for over 40 years."

A resident of Northampton since the 1980's, Lori met her husband in the Childbirth Center while visiting her nephew, who had just been delivered. Both of her children were born at Cooley Dickinson, and she's had multiple surgeries - including an appendix removal - at the hospital. Cooley Dickinson VNA and Hospice

played a critical part in helping to provide care for her husband and her mother at the end of their lives.

"Cooley Dickinson has woven in and out of my life in so many ways," she noted. "It has been such a critical resource to my family and I want to help make sure that others have access to the same phenomenal care that I did, and do."

Recently, Lori generously made a gift in support of the emergency department campaign. What inspired her?

"I wanted to be part of making this transformation happen. The emergency department is such an important resource to our Valley," Lori continued, "we deserve the world class care that Mass General provides in Boston right here in our backyards. And making a gift to this campaign will help us achieve that."

You Can Help Leverage \$1,000,000

Fueled by a deep commitment to driving philanthropic investment in community, the Harold Grinspoon Charitable Foundation has made a challenge to donors like you to help Cooley Dickinson secure an extraordinary investment in emergency care.

Every new cash donation to the Emergency Department is matched 50%, up to \$1,000,000.

Can we count on your gift before the challenge deadline, August 31, 2024?

Interested in learning about how you can volunteer and help make the campaign a success?

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