

St. Joseph's Health Centre Redevelopment Project: Q-and-A

Updated December 2022

St. Joseph's Health Centre is embarking on a major hospital redevelopment project to accommodate the urgent health needs of our growing west-end community. To learn more, please see the Q-and-A below or visit <https://unityhealth.to/redevelopment>.

Q: What are the plans for redevelopment at St. Joseph's?

A: Our teams are in the early stages of planning for a new state-of-the-art patient care tower at St. Joseph's. The proposed tower will provide more beds and private patient rooms, feature the latest technology and infection prevention and control measures and create new spaces for our Emergency Department, inpatient programs, intensive care unit and operating rooms.

Q: Where will the new tower be located?

A: The proposed tower is expected to be built on the southeast corner of the campus, where the Sunnyside building and main parking garage are currently located. This location will allow us to minimize the impact on adjacent streets, particularly with regards to access and infrastructure development (e.g. roads, driveways, plumbing, electrical), most of which already exist.

Q: What is the planned height of the new tower?

A: The height of the new tower has not been determined yet. Once we advance to Stage 3 of the Ministry of Health's five-stage process for capital planning projects, we'll be able to share and engage the community on the design of the proposed new building.

Q: When will construction take place?

A: We're still in the early stages of planning and working closely with the Ministry of Health and Infrastructure Ontario on timelines. We anticipate a five-year construction period.

Q: Is there a standard redevelopment process for major hospital projects?

A: The Ministry of Health has a five-stage process for major hospital projects, each stage requiring Ministry approval to move to the next. In April 2022, Unity Health received approval for our Stage 2 Functional Program Application, which required us to map out the programs and services that'll be included in the new tower, as well as the resources needed to make it happen. In Stage 3, our teams will begin to develop preliminary design and outline the major components in more detail. In Stage 4, our teams will begin the work to develop more detailed drawings. In Stage 5, we'll begin construction.

Q: How will disruptions be mitigated during construction?

A: Mitigating disruptions is a top priority for Unity Health Toronto. We're already looking at strategies to manage noise, traffic and safety, among other anticipated concerns, which will be incorporated into our development plans. We'll also create a responsive process for the community to provide feedback.

Q: How will traffic flow be managed on Sunnyside during construction?

A: We are conducting studies and working with the City of Toronto and TTC to identify the best configuration for traffic flow on the streets surrounding our campus. Traffic management will be part of construction planning and part of our regular communications and engagement during this time.

Q: How will the character of the St. Joseph's buildings be maintained?

A: St. Joseph's buildings have unique character which will be taken into consideration in the redevelopment plans, while balancing the creation of therapeutic environments for patients. When our project reaches Stage 3, we'll have more to share and engage the community on the proposed plans.

Q: How will the community be engaged and informed?

A: In our current early planning stage of this project, our priority is to build relationships and create open lines of communications with key community stakeholders. During the design phases in stages 3 and 4, we'll begin to explore design elements with community stakeholder engagement. During the construction phase, we'll have regular community meetings and communications to discuss plans and impacts, which will also include a responsive process to address potential issues or concerns. Latest news and updates will also be posted on our [website](#).

Q: Who can I contact with questions or concerns?

A: All community feedback and questions about redeveloping St. Joseph's are welcomed and can be emailed to communications@unityhealth.to. This email is monitored regularly and a member of our team will get back to you as soon as possible, usually within 1-2 business days.