

Frequently Asked Questions

Grow Holland Bloorview Research Expansion: Playground Relocation

Updated: May 11, 2020

Why is the hospital beginning construction now?

Holland Bloorview's research institute is undergoing a significant expansion to increase its capacity to conduct life-enhancing research for children and youth with disabilities. An important component of this plan includes an 11,000 square foot addition to create much-needed space to reach its goal of having the highest concentration of childhood disability research anywhere in the world.

To support this expansion, the hospital needs to relocate our daycare playground in order to provide access to the construction site for the two-storey expansion (on floors four and five) that is scheduled to begin construction next spring. We are taking advantage of this unique opportunity to build a state-of-the-art, accessible playground that will be available to our inpatient clients, daycare kids as well as students that go to our onsite school.

When will construction start and end?

Construction is scheduled to start June 15 and end August 28, barring any delays due to the current pandemic. The hours of construction will be from Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., with some work occurring on Saturdays.

I thought that only construction work that is deemed essential is permitted. Are you allowed to build this playground?

The Ontario government issued an order that limits some construction during the pandemic. However, construction projects and services associated with the healthcare sector are exempt from the order. Given that the playground redevelopment is essential to move forward with the Bloorview Research Institute (BRI) expansion, it falls within this exemption.

How will you ensure the safety of clients and families and staff during the construction? How will we ensure construction workers do not spread COVID in the hospital?

The playground construction will take place primarily outside. Construction workers will rarely enter the building. If they are required to enter, they will be screened and monitored like all other visitors to the hospital according to our strict screening measures.

Will the construction workers be screened before entering the construction site? Will they wear masks?

Our construction manager, Buttcon Construction Limited, has implemented protocols to protect the health, safety and well-being of the Holland Bloorview community as well as their employees and construction workers. Protocols include active screening, physical distancing, hand cleaning and sanitization and wearing personal protective equipment when appropriate.

How will construction workers maintain physical distancing?

They will be constantly supervised by the Buttcon Construction Limited site supervisor to ensure they are staying at least 2 meters apart.

Will they be supplied with personal protective equipment (PPE) from Holland Bloorview's supplies?

The construction manager and subcontractors are required to provide their own PPE.

How will the construction impact parking?

The playground construction will take up about 10 parking spots on the north side of the main lot. Given construction will occur over the summer months and with many staff still working from home due to the pandemic, we do not anticipate any parking concerns.

Where will the construction workers leave their equipment on-site?

All equipment will be locked up behind the construction fencing.

How will the construction impact our access to the outside space?

The west side of the building, as well as part of the lawn space outside of the cafeteria will be blocked off by construction fencing. This area will be off-limits to staff as well as clients and families.

Beyond these restrictions, the rest of the hospital grounds remain open during the construction. Clients, staff and families will have full access to the eating area outside the cafeteria, the basketball court and Spiral Garden.

How is the playground redevelopment funded?

The playground is funded by the hospital, the Bloorview School Authority and by generous donors contributing to the Grow Holland Bloorview Research campaign.

How are our inpatient clients and families being informed?

We are working closely with the inpatient management team to ensure all inpatient client and families are informed of the upcoming construction. All current and future inpatient families will receive a letter informing them of the playground re-development.

Questions?

For comments or questions about this project, please contact:

GrowHBResearch@hollandbloorview.ca.

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