



New Samaritan hospital coming to Lincoln City

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New hospital project continues to move forward

We've heard through the grapevine that there are concerns that the replacement Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital project is "on indefinite hold." Rest assured, that is not true! Our local newspaper, The News Guard, printed a new hospital Q&A a while ago. For those who did not see it, here are the questions, with responses written by CEO Lesley Ogden, MD.

Give us the latest timeline for construction of the new hospital. Construction is scheduled to begin in late spring 2018 and be completed by early autumn 2019. Once the new facility is built, the next big task will be to move equipment and furnishings into the new building and relocate departments into their new spaces – all without interrupting health care service to our community. Then, the current hospital will be demolished so that the main parking lot and other campus improvements can be completed. As with any major construction project, many variables will impact how quickly we can build, move, demolish and complete the campus. We are now looking at an opening date of early summer 2020.

Right now, we are deep into the preconstruction phase of the project. Work is moving forward in many areas – design development, meeting with the city's planning department, selecting materials, and so much more. The amount of work being accomplished now by countless individuals is a bit mind-boggling, but it all leads toward one goal: creating a beautiful, modern and efficient new hospital with optimal workspaces for providing the best patient care.

What will be the first part of the construction? We will begin with site clearing and site preparation followed by installation of foundations, underground utilities and the steel superstructure.

Take us for a brief walk through the new hospital. How are the facilities laid out and why that order? The overriding theme for our new hospital and campus is ease of wayfinding and efficiency. The new building will have one highly visible main entrance for inpatients, outpatients and emergency patients. This is unlike our existing building, which has three public entrances on three different sides of the building. Our new campus will have two access drives, both of which will lead to the main entrance. Our emergency department will be on the north side of the building, close to the medical helipad. Once inside the building, the public will find it very obvious where to go for services, with an intuitive layout and ample signage. Departments within the hospital are laid out in close proximity to each other for maximum work efficiency and space usage/flexibility.

During construction, what should the public know about treatment and services at Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital? Providing quality patient care always comes first and will not be interrupted. We are already planning for ways to keep noise levels down, to reduce vibrations, to ease congestion and to have adequate parking available. We will notify the public of any major impact to service via our website, Facebook, notices to the media and signs on campus.

Are there any unforeseen developments that have come up for the construction of the new hospital? The region's economic recovery is good for the construction industry. There are big projects underway in our county, including the new construction at Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital in Newport. To help offset tight resources, we realigned our construction schedule and are in the process of securing contracts now with mechanical, electrical and plumbing partners for work that will begin months in the future.

If you had a blank check, would your new hospital design be different than what is now being planned? It serves no purpose to answer a rhetorical question about a blank check, because that won't change the wonderful reality: Samaritan Health Services has generously agreed to fund the construction of a new hospital in Lincoln City without asking voters for a tax increase. The funds allocated for our new hospital are ample to produce a modern and efficient facility to replace our existing 50-year-old wooden structure.

Why was the decision made to stay with the \$35 million offered by Samaritan Health Services, and not to go to voters asking for \$50 or \$60 million to build a larger facility? Many factors were considered in making this decision. Would a tax increase pass in north Lincoln County? (The North Lincoln Health District Board and Samaritan Hospital Board had grave concerns that a taxpayer bond referendum would not be successful). Could the hospital afford to make payments on a large building that might sit empty? Will future health care demand support a larger facility and if so, when? After consulting with experts, we came to the conclusion that \$35 million was the upper limit of debt that the current hospital can safely support without putting the future of the hospital at risk. In case our community's health care needs change in the future, we are planning expansion capabilities in each aspect of the building. The safest and most effective plan for our health care future is to build for our needs today and plan wisely for our needs tomorrow.

QUESTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS ABOUT THIS UPDATE OR THE NEW HOSPITAL PROJECT?

Contact Mary Jo Kerlin in PR/Marketing or Ann Shupe in Administration.