

Emergency Services on the Move

The engine of any major hospital is its emergency department. Here, time is often of the essence, and everything must run efficiently and smoothly. Lives depend on it.

The emergency facilities at St. Mary's Hospital Center handle 35,000 visits a year and are consistently singled out for accolades. However the current location and configuration of the emergency area has a number of serious limitations:

1. **Ambulance access** - the emergency's proximity to the main entrance on avenue Lacombe often leads to congestion.
2. **Patient access** - patients arriving by taxi or car must follow a circuitous route to reach the emergency.
3. **Distance from key services** - the emergency is not conveniently located near key support facilities such as laboratories, imaging, pharmacy, ICU and CCU.
4. **Size** - the current emergency occupies too small a space as it was built to accommodate 13 stretchers.
5. **Safety** - the ever-present threat of an infectious outbreak is heightened when patients are moved from one area of the hospital to another.

St. Mary's bold redevelopment plan calls for the relocation of emergency facilities to the West Wing. This will provide ambulances with ready access off rue Légaré and patients arriving by taxi or car will be within steps of the emergency entrance.

St. Mary's spacious new emergency will be 30 percent larger and designed for 18 stretchers. Another important benefit is that it will be within easy reach of the Hospital's high-tech facilities - medical imaging, labs, OR, ICU and CCU - and above the pharmacy. This "stacked" approach will keep these important services within close proximity and eliminate the need for emergency patients to be taken from one area of the Hospital to another for vital diagnostic testing.

As St. Mary's undertakes this exciting renewal project, the relocation and expansion of its emergency facilities will help the Hospital reach new heights in the delivery of *healthcare on a human scale*.