

FACT SHEET

Hamilton Mobile Health Unit (MHU)

- In April 2021, construction started on the new Mobile Health Unit (MHU) in the parking lot adjacent to 293 Wellington Street in downtown Hamilton. This location was selected because of its proximity to the Hamilton General Hospital.
- The MHU is a partnership between the federal and provincial governments and provincial hospital systems to support patients from across Ontario in the event of extreme pressure on the healthcare system.
- Using the MHU for acute medical patients means that specialized resources, such as intensive care, can be made available in hospitals for those who need it most, and will allow the healthcare system to safely care for more patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The MHU is 1,580 square metres (17,000 square feet) and is configured for up to 80 patient beds.
- There are eight patient care areas (or wards/tents) that can hold up to 10 beds each. Each unit is self-contained and equipped with the necessary medical support system and washroom facilities.
- The facility also includes reception, nursing stations, anterooms, storage space, information technology and housekeeping areas, and connecting corridors.
- The MHU is on target to receive its first patient on May 31, 2021, pending availability of staff. The MHU will be staffed by a team of clinical professionals from across the Ontario Health West Region, including doctors, nurses and allied health professionals (e.g., physiotherapist, social worker, dietitian).
- Patients in the MHU will primarily be individuals with acute medical needs with an anticipated short total length of stay (3-5 days) and/or patients who are approaching discharge. Patients may be admitted from anywhere across the Ontario Health West Region or elsewhere in the province.
- The MHU is powered by a number of large generators. Water supply and plumbing systems throughout the MHU are operated independently from City of Hamilton or HHS services.
- HEPA air filtration is provided throughout the MHU.
- The MHU is made of durable, waterproof, fire-retardant PVC coated fabric, supported by an aluminum frame. It is insulated for all weather conditions and equipped with temperature control to manage air conditioning and heating systems.
- The MHU has a dimmable lighting system using LED light tubes, which can be operated in groups or individually.
- For safety and security, the MHU is equipped with the appropriate fire-safety systems, nursing call bells, communication systems and 24/7 security.