

Construction and renovation

Patient and consumer guide – version 1, 2025



Construction and renovation – staying healthy

Construction and renovation activities in hospitals or healthcare settings can increase the risk of infection for patients, visitors, staff, and contractors. This is because activities like demolition, digging, plumbing, or sanding can release **dust, moisture, and debris** into the air and water systems.

These materials may carry **germs** that can cause illness, especially in people with weakened immune systems. Two of the most common germs linked to construction-related infections are:

- **Aspergillus** – a type of mould that spreads through the air.
- **Legionella** – a bacteria that can grow in water systems and cause serious lung infections.

Healthy people who come into contact with these organisms usually do not develop an infection, but patients with poor immune function can become very unwell.

To keep everyone safe, hospitals take special precautions during building works, including using protective barriers to prevent the spread of dust. Staff may also recommend that you wear a mask, take some extra medication or that you enter the hospital via a different path away from building activities.

Steps to take

Perform hand hygiene throughout the hospital, follow any signs or additional instructions provided by staff. Alert staff if you have any concerns or questions. Please wear a mask if staff recommend you do this when travelling to and from the hospital.

Your role and consent

As with all care that we provide to you, you have the right to be well informed and to be involved in any decision making that impacts your care. If you have questions or concerns about construction and renovation that may be happening during your hospital stay, please talk with your healthcare staff.

Preventing infections during construction and renovation

During your hospital stay or visit to a health service, there are many ways that we will protect you from infection. At all times, you can expect us to:

	<p>Clean our hands before and after we touch you, by washing hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand rub. It is ok to ask us if we have.</p>		<p>Put in place infection control measures to reduce the risk to you and others.</p>
	<p>Clean around building activities so no dust can be seen in the hospital.</p>		<p>Ask you to take medication to reduce risks with building activities.</p>
	<p>Isolate (keep you away from building activities), we may move you to another area of the hospital or to a special isolation room if you have poor immune function.</p>		<p>Ask you to wear a mask, if you have poor immune function.</p>

What to expect

If there is building construction and/or renovation happening during your hospital stay, the following information is important to know:



Construction and renovation works can be very noisy and may impact your overall experience in the care environment. Please talk to staff if noise is a concern.



There will be measures in place to stop dust getting into the care environment, such as the use of solid walls. These may mean that you need to enter the facility via a different path or route.



Areas within your hospital where building activities are being carried out will also display signs. Please pay close attention to any instructions you are given from staff, and follow signs around your hospital to help keep you safe.



Staff may recommend you wear a mask to protect you from construction dust whilst walking through some areas of the hospital, including outside.



Your care may be moved to another clinical area or ward during your stay. This will be done to keep you safe from construction works.



You may be asked to take medications whilst in hospital or if attending hospital for appointments to help keep you safe if you have poor immune function.



If you see dust and are worried. Please talk to staff.