The conversion of the DC Convention Center is part of a nationwide effort through FEMA to augment health care needs in the District of Columbia in response to COVID-19. Baltimore District issued a design/build contract award for the conversion April 16, 2020, to Hensel Phelps Construction Co. out of Tyson, VA.

The viability/capability of spaces is based on a number of factors, including:

- Structural soundness
- Potential bed capacity and isolation space
- Electrical and communication capabilities
- Adequate plumbing and HVAC systems
- Feasibility of creating a negative-pressure environment
- Availability of back-up generators
- Safety codes
- Free of hazardous materials
- ADA compliance, and more

The DC Convention Center offers several distinct advantages:

- Utility supply available throughout
- Dedicated and knowledgeable on-site staff
- Ready loading dock/ambulance access
- Central location in DC

Through a design and construction contract, Baltimore District is converting Hall A into a medical care space. Should the need arise in the future, more space can be added to serve the response needs of the region.

Hall A

- ~151,000 square feet of medical space
- Space for ~ 443 beds
- Including 6 rapid treatment beds w/oxygen
- ~ May 8 construction completion

**KEY CONSTRUCTION FEATURES**

- Individual treatment room modules for each bed and connection to utilities
- Support facilities like patient registration, storage and staff areas, and a pharmacy and lab room
- HVAC modifications to provide negative pressure space - a requirement for COVID-19 patients
- Evaluation and/or modification of existing electrical supply to meet medical standards
- 218 standard beds with supplied oxygen
- 145 sinks for hand-washing/infection control

**PATIENTS**

As determined by HSEMA and the healthcare provider, goal is for the center to treat non-COVID low-acuity patients sent from existing acute-care facilities to support COVID-19 surge capacity, should the need arise. The center will still be built to COVID standards.