

# DC CONVENTION CENTER ALTERNATE CARE FACILITY CONVERSION

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.

## INSPECTIONS

Baltimore District completed 19 site inspections at facilities in DC at the request of the DC government and the DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA), including the DC Convention Center in late March.

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

## CONSTRUCTION

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
- Evaluation and/or modification of existing electrical supply to meet medical standards
- Support facilities like patient registration, storage and staff areas, and a pharmacy and lab room
- 218 standard beds with supplied oxygen
- HVAC modifications to provide negative pressure space - a requirement for COVID-19 patients
- 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.

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