

Kensington Hospice Expansion Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is Kensington Hospice?

A. The Kensington Hospice is a 10-bed, palliative care home located in a beautiful historical building on a tree-lined street in Toronto. Created in 2011, our warm and inviting residence was designed to respond to the needs of each resident and their family facing life-limiting illness and bereavement. Kensington Hospice provided around the clock hospital-level care in a warm, home-like setting. Our team of professionals and volunteers offers pain control, symptom relief, nursing care, social work, therapies, spiritual support and nutritious meals.

Q. What is the Hospice Expansion Project?

A. To meet the growing needs of the community, Kensington Hospice is expanding to create nine additional beds and a new space for a five-day community day hospice program. Construction begins in February 2020. When completed in Winter 2021, the 19-bed Kensington Hospice will have nearly doubled our capacity to provide quality and compassionate end-of-life care to the community we serve. We are also taking this opportunity to upgrade and enhance common areas and a Multipurpose Room.

Q. Why is the Kensington Hospice being expanded?

A. We believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to have a good ending. For some, that is at Kensington Hospice. Since its creation in 2011, demand for hospice care in our community has steadily increased. We are expanding to be able to continue meeting the growing needs of the community.

Q. When does construction begin?

A. Construction begins in February 2020, with internal renovations on the main floor of Kensington Gardens.

Q. How long will construction last?

A. The Hospice Expansion project is scheduled to be completed in the winter of 2021.

Q. Will there be a lot of noise or odour?

A. We are deeply committed to, whenever possible, reducing disruption and excessive noise throughout the project and thank you in advance for your patience. Noise and odour notices will be posted in the lobby of 45 Brunswick Avenue, giving residents and their families an overview of the construction activities for the week.

Q. What is being done to the Multipurpose Room at 45 Brunswick Ave.?

A. We will begin renovation of the Multipurpose Room at 45 Brunswick Avenue in February 2020. The new room will be brighter and boast state-of-the-art audio and conferencing capabilities to better suit the needs of our residents and community partners.

Q. What are the construction hours?

Construction will be limited to Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. There will be no construction on weekends.

Q. Will any residents be moved throughout this project?

A. No Kensington Gardens resident will be relocated throughout this project.

Q. How will you ensure the safety of the residents throughout this project?

A. Resident safety is a priority throughout this project. We will conduct weekly construction meetings with our contactors and regular compliance checks by our architects, IBI Group. The Ministry of Health and City of Toronto reviewed and approved all elements of the project. All contractors on site must sign in when they arrive to their shift and wear an identifying badge.

Q. I have a loved one who lives in the Kensington Gardens long-term care building at 25 Brunswick Avenue. How will construction affect them?

A. Residents living at 25 Brunswick Avenue will not be directly affected throughout this project.

Q. I have a loved one who lives in the Kensington Gardens long-term care building at 45 Brunswick Avenue. How will construction affect their day-to-day activities?

A. Regular day-to-day activities will continue. Life Enhancement programming will be relocated to the lobby of 45 Brunswick Ave. for the duration of the construction. Please consult the monthly life enhancement calendars to confirm location.

Q. My loved one is on the wait list for the long-term care home. Does this project impact their wait time?

A. The Kensington Hospice Expansion project does not impact the wait list for the long-term care home.

Q. My loved one lives in the Kensington Hospice. How will the construction affect them?

A. There will be no interruptions to hospice care at this time

Q. My loved one is on the wait list for the hospice. Does this project impact their wait?

A. The Kensington Hospice Expansion project does not impact the wait list for the hospice.

Q. What will the new hospice rooms look like?

A. The resident rooms at the new Hospice will feature large windows which will look out onto a private patio space. Each room will have a fully adjustable and transportable bed with an accompanying bedside table and terminal for room controls and entertainment. Resident rooms will also contain a comfortable chair that can convert into an overnight sleeper for family members.

Q. Where can I go for project updates?

A. Noise and odour notices will be posted in the lobby of 45 Brunswick Avenue, giving residents and their families an overview of the construction activities for the week. You can also find these updates and more at our construction web page found at www.kensingtonhealth.org/construction.

Q. I have a specific question not listed here or on your website. Who can I contact for more information?

A. Please contact Edward Aust, Corporate Planning Specialist, at eaust@kensingtonhealth.org.

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