

Q1: What is South Nassau doing to improve the immediate healthcare needs in Long Beach and across the barrier island?

South Nassau is committed to opening an off-campus, hospital-based Emergency Services Department by July 1, pending approval from the New York State Department of Health. The off-campus Emergency Department is to be located at the current South Nassau Urgent Care Center and will be able to receive ambulances via the 911 network. This upgrade represents a \$5 million investment in the Urgent Care Center in addition to the \$5 million already invested to establish the Long Beach Urgent Care Center, which opened last July.

Q2: What services will the South Nassau Emergency Department at Long Beach provide?

Staffed by physicians board-certified in emergency medicine, the off-campus emergency department will be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The staff will include emergency-certified RNs, who specialize in emergency nursing. Staff will be able to receive all emergency cases with subspecialty backup supported through an integrated information technology system connecting the center to South Nassau's main campus in Oceanside. Laboratory, CT-scan and radiology imaging services will be provided on-site as well. A 600-square foot addition will be added to the existing Urgent Care Center space for an observation area. Patients requiring hospitalization will be transported via ambulance to South Nassau's main campus in Oceanside.

Q3: So if I or someone I know has a heart attack, they will be treated on the barrier island once the Emergency Department opens at the Urgent Care Center on Long Beach?

Not necessarily. As per existing Department of Health protocol, all acute strokes, heart attacks and trauma patients will be seen at the appropriate state-designated hospital. Even when the Long Beach Medical Center was open, certain cases often bypassed the hospital under state protocol to ensure that they were brought to a facility that had the appropriate staff and equipment to offer the best care. Ambulance crews make these decisions in consultation with Nassau County medical control. Any patient who requires hospital admission or advanced levels of treatment will be transferred from the off-campus emergency department to South Nassau or the appropriate hospital via on-site ambulance services. South Nassau, which services some 900,000 residents of the South Shore from Queens to Suffolk County, is a Level II trauma center with advanced cardiac and stroke centers.

Q4. Why is it taking so long to open up an Emergency Department in Long Beach?

South Nassau only took possession of the former Long Beach Medical Center campus in October of 2014, following a protracted bankruptcy proceeding.

Q5. Why won't South Nassau consider using the \$176.9 million it is due to receive from FEMA to open a full-fledged hospital in Long Beach?

South Nassau is committed to restoring key medical services to the barrier island, but any medical facility we open must be sustainable for the long term. A community of 33,275 residents cannot sustain a hospital and the trend across the state is for fewer hospital beds as more procedures are performed on an outpatient basis. Even before Sandy hit, the former Long Beach Medical Center was a financially distressed hospital with poor quality scores. It would be a disservice to the barrier island communities to open a new facility in Long Beach that would only have to close a few years later if it was also not financially viable. The FEMA funds can only be used for capital projects – like buildings – and not for operating expenses. South Nassau is studying what services the barrier island needs most, based on past discharge and usage data. Under consideration is a Medical Arts Pavilion on the former Long Beach Medical Center campus that could include an Emergency Department along with space for other services like a dialysis treatment center, radiology and family medicine.

Q6. What about rumors that South Nassau intends to sell the property where the Long Beach Medical Center was located to a condominium developer?

South Nassau is a nonprofit hospital with a primary mission of providing health care services to residents of the South Shore. We intend to be true to that mission. There are no plans to sell the property for condominium development. In the long term, we hope to use the property to create a medical campus and/or related use, such as for an assisted living facility or geriatric village. The remaining buildings (West & Main) might also be repurposed by South Nassau to house business office employees, which would return jobs to the community. We are seeking input from residents and leaders on the barrier island about what they view as a best use for the property.

Q7. Is it true that South Nassau intends to spend some of the FEMA funds to improve services at its Oceanside facility?

Yes. Under the 'alternative use' provisions of the FEMA regulations, South Nassau is permitted to use some of the funds to improve medical services within our service area, which covers 900,000 South Shore residents from the Rockaways to the Massapequas. South Nassau, a Level II Trauma Center, is a regional resource and we are obligated to use the capital dollars from FEMA in a way that will benefit the most people. South Nassau intends to use some of the FEMA funds to improve critical care services, operating rooms and the emergency department at its Oceanside hospital. Long Beach residents also will benefit from a stronger South Nassau as it is the closest hospital to the barrier island and would likely be the hospital of choice for any major illness or emergency situation.

Q8: In addition to South Nassau Urgent Care Center (SNUCC), does South Nassau provide other healthcare services?

South Nassau Family Medicine Center at Long Beach, located at 761 Franklin Blvd., is an extension of South Nassau's Family Medicine Center located on Merrick Rd. in Oceanside. It combines with the Urgent Care Center to provide residents of Long Beach and surrounding communities a continuum of hospital-grade urgent care and family medicine. All residents of Long Beach in need of quality, compassionate family medicine and a family practice physician

are welcome to phone the office and to schedule an appointment. The telephone number to call is 516-544-2351.

Since its opening in May of 2014, the Family Medicine Center at Long Beach has totaled 1,667 patient visits from residents of Long Beach. More than 1,555 patients have been treated at the Urgent Care Center, which opened in July 2014.

Q9: What is the next step in the redevelopment of the medical center buildings and campus?

South Nassau Communities Hospital is in the process of selecting a contractor for the demolition of the Central, Founders, and East buildings of the former Long Beach Medical Center, as well as four hospital-owned properties located near the former medical center's campus at 405, 416, 420, 426, and 430 East Bay Blvd. The structures have been abandoned and in decay since being severely damaged during Superstorm Sandy.

This past fall, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) agreed that the Central, Founders and East buildings should be demolished as the cost of repairs necessary to bring them into code compliance was cost prohibitive.

Demolition of the structures is tentatively scheduled to begin in the spring. The demolition will be preceded by an abatement of each structure to completely remove all asbestos, lead, paint and mercury-containing materials such as exterior siding, roof shingles, tar paper, pipe wrap and interior floor tiles. The abatement will be approved by the New York State Department of Labor (DOL) and, as required by the DOL, air monitoring will be performed by a third party company.

Q10: What can be expected during the demolition?

Cranes equipped with grapple claws will be the primary machinery used for the demolition of the Central, Founders and East buildings. To prevent machinery and construction vehicles from kicking up dust, the property will be watered down during the demolition work. The path that will be used for hauling debris from the properties will be Lincoln Boulevard to Harrison St., then a right onto Long Beach Rd. Residents can expect some noise during work hours (such as the crackling of wood, the breaking of concrete, and the rumble of construction vehicles) as building materials are crushed or hauled away to a recycling facility. As mandated by the City of Long Beach noise ordinance, the demolition work will begin no earlier than 8AM each day, with work occurring from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Q11: What is the status of the West and Main buildings of the former Long Beach Medical Center?

Blitch Knevel, nationally-recognized architects who specialize in disaster recovery, concluded in its study of the West and Main buildings that it would be "cost- and time-prohibitive" to attempt repairs required by federal and state regulators to reopen them in the short term to provide healthcare services. The analysis found that the buildings are not code-compliant in 88 categories covering structural, mechanical, electrical and plumbing areas, including:

- New duct distribution systems
- New exhaust systems
- New hot water system
- New water distribution system

- New boilers and steam distribution system
- Full building fires sprinkler upgrades
- Relocation of fire pump
- New emergency and normal power systems with service separation requirements
- New lighting and power
- New IT, nurse call, patient monitor and phone systems
- Seismic and lateral upgrades (for wind and earthquake protection) to comply with code revisions, including additional structure and strengthening of existing structural elements
- ADA upgrades and additional toilets/parking/ramping requirements.

Additional code compliance failures in the buildings include the lack of a centralized waste collection and storage area as well as a refrigerated storage facility for laboratory services. South Nassau had explored obtaining waivers on some of the code issues, however, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) declined to grant waivers for more than 80 code compliance failures, including ones involving wind and earthquake protection as well as upgrades needed to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) mandates.

Q12: What is under consideration to replace the former medical center?

With the off-campus emergency services department as the cornerstone, South Nassau is considering construction of a two-story, 30,000-square-foot Medical Arts Pavilion on the site. The building could house services such as a dialysis center, behavioral health, radiology and medical imaging services, same-day ambulatory surgical center and family medicine. South Nassau is currently studying what services the community needs and could support, based on past discharge and treatment data.

Q13: How will the FEMA funds be used?

A Letter of Understanding (LOU) with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) states that FEMA *may* approve reimbursement for 90 percent of South Nassau's investments of up to \$176.9 million of its own funds on significant development of new healthcare facilities, programs and services (including emergency services) that serve areas of high community need, including Long Beach and surrounding communities.

Following the issuance of a request for proposal by Long Beach Medical Center, South Nassau was the only hospital to assist the Long Beach area in re-establishing its medical infrastructure. In taking this position, South Nassau helped to preserve the \$176.9 million in FEMA funds which would have been lost with the closure of LBMC. The use of these FEMA funds will be subject to an ongoing federal audit and will be used to restore and preserve vital healthcare services to the South Shore residents and communities served by South Nassau.

Q.14: How do you intend to keep residents of the barrier island informed about the progress of these various projects?

We urge interested residents to sign up for our email updates and monitor South Nassau's Long Beach Urgent Care Facebook page and Twitter feed for the very latest information, as well as the web site www.southnassaulongbeach.org. We also will continue to regularly brief the media about significant developments. And we intend to hold additional Information Days like this one in Long Beach and throughout South Nassau's service area along the South Shore.