

ASPR TRACIE Technical Assistance Request

Request Receipt Date (by ASPR TRACIE): December 17, 2021

Response Date: December 17, 2021

Type of TA Request: Standard

Request:

ASPR TRACIE received a request for information related to increasing hospital bed capacity by utilizing existing space within their institutions/ health systems.

Response:

ASPR TRACIE reviewed several documents, including those on our [COVID-19 Resource Page](#) and [COVID-19 Alternate Care Site Resources](#). The resources below provide general information on creating specialty spaces or designated hospitals for COVID-19 patients and ACS resources.

I. COVID-19 Specialty Hospitals/ Space Configuration

[COVID-19 Hospital Resources Collection](#): This Resource Collection consolidates the contents of the COVID-19 Critical Care Surge, COVID-19 Emergency Department, and COVID-19 Hospital Triage/Screening Collections prior to January 2021. ASPR TRACIE combined those Collections to enable users to locate hospital-specific COVID-19 resources in one location. Specifically review the [Capacity](#) section of this Resource Collection.

- [Hospital Operations Toolkit for COVID-19: Capacity - Space](#)
- [Hospital Operations Toolkit for COVID-19: Capacity - Staffing](#)
- [Hospital Operations Toolkit for COVID-19: Capacity – Supply Chain](#)

[Creating a COVID-19 Specialty Hospital](#): Erica Kuhlmann, DO, COVID ICU Medical Director, M Health Fairview (MN) shares how her facility made history when it became one of the nation’s first, and only, hospitals dedicated solely to treating people with severe, confirmed cases of COVID-19.

[Designated COVID-19 Hospitals: Case Studies and Lessons Learned](#): Between September 9, 2020 and October 20, 2020, the ASPR TRACIE team interviewed decision makers and lead physicians at four designated COVID-19 hospitals. The interviews focused on the facilities’ decision-making processes, operations and logistics (space, staff, stuff), and general lessons learned. These facilities were already operational or existing hospitals; they were not “Alternate Care Sites.” Additionally, the entire facility was designated to solely treat COVID-19 positive patients; all other patients were transferred or directed to nearby hospitals.

[Engineering/Reconfiguring Spaces to Accommodate COVID-19 Patients: ASPR TRACIE Experiences from the Field](#): Many hospitals were not built to treat the significant patient surges of COVID-positive patients.

These resources focus on updating old and creating new spaces to accommodate patients with specific symptoms while keeping staff as safe as possible, sanitizing rooms and common areas, tracking patients in new/reconfigured spaces, and ensuring public safety in healthcare facilities during a pandemic.

[Reconfiguring Spaces: How NorthShore University HealthSystem Met the COVID-19](#)

Challenge: COVID-19 challenged every aspect of healthcare facilities across the country. From patient care to engineering, environmental health & safety, public safety, and food & nutrition—every department and specialty was affected somehow by the virus. ASPR TRACIE interviewed Michael Fiore, CIH, Corporate Senior Director for Environmental Health and Safety and Clinical Operations for NorthShore University HealthSystem in Illinois. In this role, he oversees the environment of care, including nonclinical areas that support clinical operations that promote a safe, comfortable and healing environment.

HHS/ASPR COVID-19 Clinical Rounds - [ECHO Clinical Rounds \(September 23, 2021\)](#):

This ECHO Clinical Rounds session discusses caring for adult patients in the PICU and caring for pediatric COVID patients in the adult ICU.

II. Select Alternate Care Sites Resources

The [COVID-19 Alternate Care Site Resources](#) page has additional ACS related resources.

[ACS Funding Summary: Establishment and Operationalization](#): This tip sheet summarizes the funding available through various sources to establish and operationalize alternate care sites.

[Baltimore Convention Center Field Hospital: One State's Experience during COVID-19](#): ASPR TRACIE met with the joint leadership team from the Baltimore (MD) Convention Center Field Hospital (BCCFH), a joint effort to establish an alternate care site (ACS) created to help manage the patient surge from the COVID-19 pandemic. This case study highlights their experiences standing up and maintaining this ACS and includes challenges and considerations by category in the hopes that the information can be helpful to stakeholders engaged in similar planning and response efforts.

[Funding Sources for the Establishment and Operationalization of Alternate Care Sites](#) (Webinar): Speakers will discuss funding options for establishing ACSs, the operation and ongoing administration of ACS, and for direct patient care costs.