

MWPH is Getting a Move on!



This week, Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital (MWPH) celebrates the opening of its new Prince George's County location, within the site of the brand-new University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center in Largo. We'll offer the same excellent, personalized inpatient and outpatient care for children with complex medical needs and their families—now in a beautiful, cutting-edge space.

Prince George's County has the second largest population of any county in Maryland, with nearly a million residents. The Southern Maryland region is underserved when it comes to children's specialty medical care and transitional care, which is why Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital initially expanded from its Baltimore location to the former Prince George's County location 25 years ago. However, as the community's needs have increased along with the population, MWPH gradually outgrew its previous facility.

We are delighted to introduce you to our new Capital Region location.

More inpatient space

The inpatient unit will have the same number of beds as before—15—but that's where the similarities stop. Prince George's Hospital Center offered no private rooms, and the inpatient facility was cramped. "In our previous location, it was difficult for families to spend the night with their little ones, because there was no room," said Colleen Neidig, RN, nurse manager for MWPH's Capital Region inpatient unit.

The new site offers huge rooms, all of which are semi-private or private. Each room has a pull-out sleeper sofa for parents or caregivers to spend the night comfortably. Every patient room is beautifully designed and flooded with natural light from the large windows. Families also have easy access to UM Capital Region's healing garden, a peaceful outdoor space to relax and reflect.

Every one of the patient rooms now has a lovely private *en suite* bathroom with a shower. Parents and caregivers will no longer have to go down the hall to use the restroom or wait in line to shower before work. From the family-centered design to the state-of-the-art equipment, the inpatient unit at MWPH Capital Region will make the hospital experience easier for both patients and families.



Robust outpatient capability

In the Prince George's Hospital Center location, the space for outpatient services was scattered throughout the hospital. "Some of our outpatient space was on the same floor as inpatient, while other space was two floors below, on the other side of the adult cardiac rehabilitation unit," said Neidig.

At the new Capital Region location, all of the outpatient and inpatient space is on a single floor. The child life playroom is doubling in size, enabling MWPH's certified child life specialists to have more room to support patients' developmental progression.

MWPH's outpatient rehabilitation team in Prince George's County has decades of experience



Lee Cockrum, PT, senior physical therapist and Colleen Neidig, RN, nurse manager

and a long history of working together. Because the physical, occupational, and speech therapists are such a strong team, they can co-treat patients when needed, combining multiple treatment modalities in a single appointment. "We can work together and help a child with everything from developing motor skills to taking turns and communicating needs and wants," said Lee Cockrum, PT, senior physical therapist at MWPH's Capital Region location.

The weekly Developmental Evaluation Clinic will continue at the Capital Region location, where an interdisciplinary team of experts conducts detailed developmental evaluations and makes recommendations.

With all of the therapeutic specialties in one place, families can benefit from the team's strength in multidisciplinary collaboration. "If a therapist or clinician has a concern, we can call one of our colleagues in for a second set of eyes," Cockrum said. "We can help determine whether a referral is needed, without families needing to make a separate appointment."

Location, location, location

The Capital Region location is much more convenient for working families, making it easier for them to spend as much time as possible with their children. The hospital is walking distance



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from a Metro stop, which means parents can use mass transit rather than traveling by car. The area surrounding the hospital is full of shops and restaurants, making it more convenient to pop out for a meal or to pick up some household supplies.

"The accessibility for families is a big benefit of this location," said Cockrum. "Transportation can be a real barrier, and many families resort to paying out of pocket for a rideshare or cab. Getting to the Capital Region location is much, much easier."

Technology and workflow improvements

The new facility has given MWPH the opportunity to make workflow improvements to save nurses and staff valuable time. For example, when a patient specimen needs to be sent to the lab, there is a pneumatic tube system, so nurses and staff can drop off or pick up specimens or equipment without leaving the unit, reducing delays. Within a few months of opening, MWPH's Capital Region location will implement the Timeless breastmilk and formula scanning app, which MWPH had not been able to offer at Prince George's Hospital Center. The new location will also feature two separate rooms dedicated to feeding-related tasks, with one room for breastmilk and formula preparation and a separate nourishment room space.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the new location will also have negative pressure room capability, enabling MWPH to care for COVID-19-positive babies, should the need arise.

"The UM Capital Region Medical Center as a whole is a state-of-the-art facility. It's really exciting that MWPH is making this move," Neidig said.

With leading-edge inpatient and outpatient treatment capabilities and experienced staff, now in a beautiful, modern space, MWPH's new Capital Region location will serve children and families across Southern Maryland for years to come.

Visit **mwph.org/capital** to learn more about MWPH at UM Capital Region Medical Center.



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