



St. Vincent Health
Outreach and Development Office
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When will the new hospital open?

After experiencing COVID related construction delays, Leadville and Lake County's new state-of-the-art hospital will open in July, 2021. The 26,500-square-foot St. Vincent Health hospital is under construction now, on the acreage adjacent to the current hospital. The construction project began in 2019 and was slated to open in spring 2021, but has encountered some building delays due to COVID-19 and various subcontractor outages for quarantine.

As the project nears completion, St. Vincent care teams and staff are concentrating on a successful transition of workflows, inventory, supplies and equipment. Once a certificate of occupancy from local building officials is obtained, all staff will orient and train in the new hospital for a period of time before the doors open to patients and the public. Coordination is on-going and detailed; St. Vincent Health's goal is to accomplish zero downtime on services when transitioning to the new building.

What services will be offered at the new hospital?

The new facility will replace the current building that was constructed in 1958. It will support and promote the delivery of modern healthcare now and decades into the future with improvements for patient care, safety, privacy, increased medical services and operational efficiencies, including:

- Emergency Room (24/7)
- Urgent Care
- Medical outpatient procedures/infusions
- Ambulance Services (911 response and helipad)
- Laboratory Services
- Direct Access Lab Testing
- Imaging Services (CT, XRAY, Ultrasound, and DEXA Scan)
- Therapy Services -- Inpatient Rehab/Physical Therapy, and Occupational & Speech Therapy/Rehabilitation
- Acute Care, Swing Bed & Respite Care
- Wound care
- Sleep studies
- * Surgical services including Colonoscopies, General Surgery, Pain Management, Ear Nose & Throat, Interventional Cardiology, Orthopedic Surgery, Ophthalmology, Dermatology, and more.

*Denotes new services

Are you adding more primary care doctors?

SVH continues to search for a physician to replace the vacancy opened by Dr. Petry's departure in 2020. Many candidates have been interviewed and vetted in the past six months in search of someone who is the right fit for the community and who demonstrates a long-term interest in Leadville and Lake County. SVH has made 3 job offers, 2 of the physician's spouses decided that Leadville was not the right place for them, and 1 provider had an issue with his license and we needed to rescind the offer.

What will happen to the current building?

St. Vincent Medical Clinic (SVMC) is moving to the current Rocky Mountain Family Practice (RMFP) office space in June of 2021. RMFP and SVMC will merge clinics under the name of St. Vincent Family Health Center. The current hospital building will continue to be part of the hospital. It will house outpatient physical therapy and rehabilitative therapy services, administrative offices and Lake County Public Health Agency. The hospital is embarking a facility master plan process to strategically plan for additional future uses of the current building, new services and entire physical plant.

Tell me more about merging the 2 primary care clinics in Lake County? Why now?

Integrating the 2 clinics was inspired by increased health-care capacity of the new hospital, incoming specialty physicians, and new services such as surgery that will be offerings early this summer. Dr. Lisa and advance practice providers Amy King, certified physician assistant, Lauren Huffman and Kia Tamaki Harrold—both family nurse practitioners, along with all RMFP staff, will become employed by St. Vincent Health. SVH continues to search for a physician to join St. Vincent Family Health Center.

The care patients have come to know at RMFP will continue seamlessly as St. Vincent Family Health Center. A clinic manager will be selected, to oversee the new family health center. As RMFP does now, St. Vincent Family Health Center will provide primary care for patients from infancy to end-of-life. Family medicine and urgent care will continue to be offered at the health center. Additionally, 24/7 urgent care will be offered at St. Vincent Health's new hospital.

St. Vincent Health and RMFP will communicate with patients in the coming weeks with more details about the merger. In the meantime, questions and comments may be addressed to Karen Onderdonk, Chief Branding Officer at St. Vincent Health at 719-486-7135 or konderdonk@stvincent.health, or CEO Brett Antczak at 719-486-7161 or bantczak@stvincent.health.

Is SVGHD planning for more growth in the future?

Once our new hospital is completed, open and operating—planning for the future doesn't stop there. The new St. Vincent Health facility will increase patient volume and access to new services.

Considering future needs for our community, St. Vincent General Hospital District Board of Directors and CEO Brett Antczak have begun strategic planning for growth after the new hospital opens. The planning process will include a master facilities plan.

The hospital leadership team and community members are participating in setting goals in the framework of three phases of organizational strategy: 1) 01-12 months, 2) 13-24 months and 3) long-range goals.

CEO Antczak and the SVGHD board are discussing and prioritizing ideas such as an extended care unit, inpatient detox, increased outpatient services such as an addiction recovery unit, and more. We will share details as the planning unfolds and priorities are determined.

Can you share more about the plans for extended care?

Providing an opportunity for Lake County residents to age in their community, where their loved ones live and their memories were created, is very important to us. Though we do not have specifics at this time or a date to announce, SVH anticipates opening an extended care program in the future.

Currently the hospital district’s board of directors and administration are engaged in the process of strategic planning and creating a facility master plan. In those plans, a future extended care residential service at St. Vincent Health is a high priority.

Will the cost of medical services increase because of St. Vincent Health’s new hospital building?

Cost of medical services at the new St. Vincent Health will not increase. Our priority is to continue to provide healthcare that is attainable for all patients.

The question about price increase is understandable—because customarily with other types of businesses when there is a new building or a remodel—consumers see prices rise to help cover that cost.

This is not the case with our new state-of-the-art hospital. Patient’s co-pays, co-insurance, deductibles and charges do not fluctuate based on our expenses. Additionally, since the new space allows for new services such as surgery, pain management clinic, and more, it is this increase in services that will financially sustain the new facility, not an increase in charges to patients.

At St. Vincent Health we are committed to price transparency. There is an online cost estimator tool linked in the footer of www.StVincent.Health for patients who want to research procedures and costs. Patients can also call our billing office at 719-486-7172 to inquire about costs and financial assistance programs at St. Vincent Health.