

For Immediate Release | October 4, 2018

Nicola Valley Hospital and Health Centre - emergency department access changes

MERRITT — Interior Health would like to advise residents of Merritt and the surrounding region that there will soon be a new way to access the emergency department at the Nicola Valley Hospital and Health Centre (NVH).

As of Oct. 10, 2018 at 6 a.m., patients requiring urgent or emergency services will access the emergency department through a new entrance, located next to the main entrance of the hospital. This change is part of the ongoing emergency department expansion and renovation project. Treatment areas are being relocated into the newly expanded section of the emergency department to allow renovations to the existing department to proceed.

Residents are reminded that there continues to be construction adjacent to the new emergency department so please use caution. Parking has also been expanded with new spaces added to the current parking lot. Signage will be in place to direct the public to the new emergency department entrance and parking areas.

The changes are part of a \$6.5 million project to renovate and expand the NVHH emergency department. The new department will increase in size from 100 square metres (approximately 1,076 square feet) to 500 square metres (approximately 5,380 square feet).

Features of the emergency room renovation and expansion include expanded trauma and treatment areas that will enhance patient safety and staff working conditions. Other features include a covered ambulance bay with a dedicated ambulance entrance and confidential triage and registration spaces that will improve infection prevention and control measures.

Project funding is shared by the Province of British Columbia through Interior Health, the Thompson Regional Hospital District, the Nicola Valley Health Care Endowment Foundation and the Nicola Valley Health Care Auxiliary.

An official grand opening will take place when the entire project is complete, expected this winter.

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