



**Humber River
Hospital
Foundation**

Lighting New Ways
in Healthcare™

Expanding ICU Care at Humber

FUNDING
PROPOSAL

Humber has treated more COVID-19 patients than other hospitals, which has meant that our ICU team has treated 564 of the sickest patients in the city.

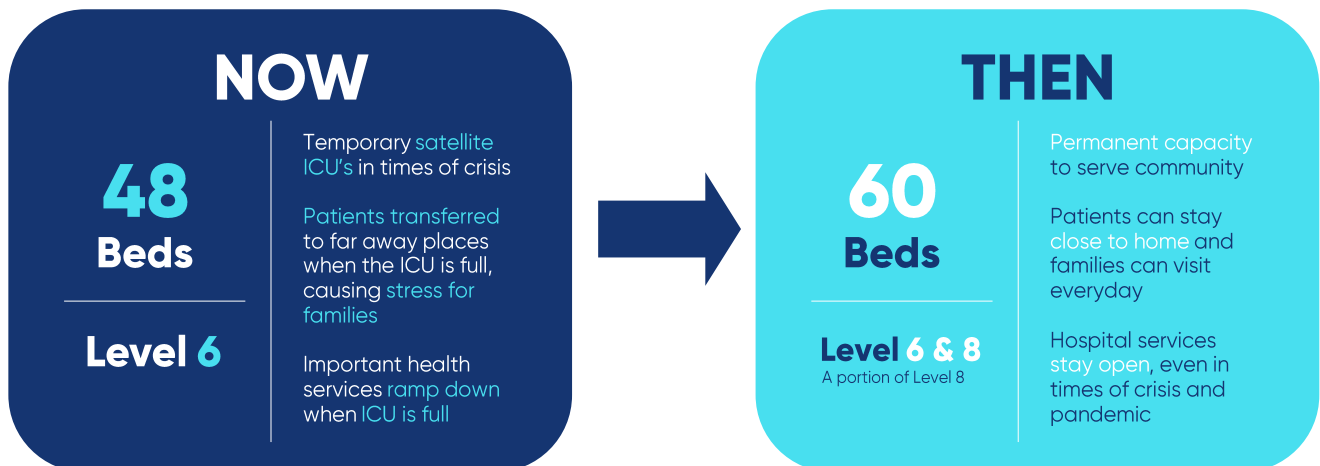


More ICU Beds, More Care for the Community

Over the past two years, our focus has been on battling COVID-19 as our teams on the frontlines of our Hospital have fought to save lives and save our community. Today, with vaccinations rolling out in record numbers, we are closer than ever before to the end of this tenacious pandemic and there is indeed a light at the end of the tunnel. Now our Hospital teams are turning their focus to the long journey back to the new normal and what that will mean as we manage COVID-19 and enhance care across our Hospital.

All of our lives changed forever during this pandemic, but nowhere has this been more evident than in our Intensive Care Unit (ICU). The ICU cares for the most critically ill patients in our community. The entire 6th floor of our Hospital is dedicated to the ICU, with 48 beds available for patients. This makes us one of the largest ICUs in a community hospital in the GTA. But even that distinction didn't stop us from feeling the strain of COVID-19. Since the start of the pandemic in March 2020, Humber has treated more COVID-19 positive patients than other hospitals, which has meant that our ICU team has cared for the sickest patients in the city battling this tenacious virus. Our ICU has been in surge for almost two years, meaning some patients had to be transferred to other hospitals, sometimes far away from home and their families. Temporary measures, such as converting areas of the Hospital into satellite ICUs definitely helped, but we need a more permanent solution to properly serve our community for years to come.

That's why Humber is working on expanding our ICU by adding 12 permanent ICU beds. This will increase our capacity to 60 ICU beds, so that there is always room at Humber for the sickest and most vulnerable in our community. Donor support today will help equip our expanded ICU with the best monitors, ventilators and other equipment needed to create light and hope in even the most dire situations.



Care Closer to Home

A stay in the hospital is stressful – a stay in the ICU can sometimes be unimaginable both for the patient and their loved ones. At Humber, we have always championed a patient and family-centered approach to care, like 24 hour visiting hours, family rooms and quiet spaces for visitors who stay for long periods of time. But all that changed during the pandemic. Strict rules meant that visitors had to be limited and carefully timed and screened. Plus, surges in COVID-19 cases meant that our ICU was usually over-capacity. Patients in our community had to be transferred to other hospitals, sometimes far away from home and their families. Imagine a loved one being admitted to the ICU and having to travel one or two hours (sometimes on the TTC) to be with them.

In non-pandemic times, our ICU at Humber was routinely in demand. Our Hospital teams care for a community that is high-needs, has chronic health conditions that are not always managed properly and we also have a higher percentage of residents who are not vaccinated. All of these factors contribute to a busy ICU. Other hospitals have more ICU beds, but they are often for certain specialties such as cardiac and neurosurgery care. The wide range of general medical-surgical care we provide at Humber means that our volumes are higher – we can care for a greater portion of the community we serve.

Our permanent expansion will not only make us a larger-scale ICU (few other community hospitals have that many ICU beds), but we will also have beds ready at a moment's notice when someone in our community needs it most. It will also provide relief to stressed out family members who can visit easily and often, which we know is better for the mind, body and soul of patients in the fight of their lives.

ICU During COVID-19

Running a hospital can be compared to a game of dominos. When all the pieces are standing up straight, all is well. But when one piece starts to fall, the rest follow. This is what happened during COVID-19. Due to a surge in COVID-19 patient admissions, health human resources had to be redeployed throughout the Hospital. Therefore, the Hospital had to start ramping down other services such as surgeries, since the teams from that (and many other) programs had to start working in the satellite ICUs, the Emergency Department, testing clinics and other areas of the Hospital that needed extra support. But there is now a backlog in healthcare services. Patients who are coming to the Hospital are sicker, with more serious conditions since they did not seek care during the pandemic.

One solution that helped increase ICU capacity during the pandemic was the temporary satellite ICU that was set up in the Post Anaesthesia Care Unit (PACU) and then on Level 7 (Cardiology) and Level 8 (Respirology). This helped treat more patients when we needed it the most, as well as caring for patients from other pandemic-ravaged provinces such as Saskatchewan. But this is not a long-term solution.

Now we are focusing on our post-pandemic future and what our Hospital needs to better care for our community and be better prepared to pivot in times of crisis, like a pandemic. Expanding our ICU to 60 beds will achieve that and it will also ensure that if another wave of this pandemic hits, or any other emergencies in the future, our ICU will be large enough to accommodate a surge in patients while other services in the Hospital continue to remain open.

"I felt like I was suffocating when I arrived in the emergency room at Humber. I tested positive for COVID-19 and they sent me upstairs to have an emergency C-section right away. The last thing I remember was the doctor saying, 'we are going to look after you. Everything is going to be okay.' I spent 7 weeks in a coma in the ICU, while my son Zion stayed in the NICU for a few days. When I woke up from my coma, I had no idea how much time had passed. My C-section scar was healed and Zion was already a 7-week old baby! I'm a survivor – I survived this incredible ordeal and lived to tell others about it. I was so happy to hold my baby, he's doing very well. I'm so grateful to the ICU team who cared for me and the NICU team who took care of Zion."

Denishar, Grateful Mom (and COVID-19 survivor)





Make an Impact Today: Donate to Expand ICU Care at Humber



\$3 million

To expand our current ICU by 12 beds, bringing our ICU capacity to 60 beds

With donor support today, we can expand our ICU by permanently opening 12 new beds on Level 8 of Humber River Hospital. This will bring our total ICU bed count to 60, which is amongst the largest of any community hospital in the GTA. It will allow more patients in our community to get the critical care they need closer to home, so families and loved ones can visit without having to travel to far away hospitals.

Your support today will help us purchase equipment such as vital signs monitors, cardiac monitors and ventilators for our expanded ICU. Our teams care for the most critical patients and expanding our capacity will help hundreds more in our community each year. It will also help us be ready for the next pandemic or crisis, since an expanded ICU will have beds available so other hospital services can continue.

Be the light. Be the change. Be a Humber River Hospital donor. Please give generously today.



The Miracle Man

Mario Castillo Tamayo was the first COVID-19 patient to be admitted into Humber River Hospital. He was placed into the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) on March 26, 2020 and was put on life support shortly after.

Castillo Tamayo's oxygen levels were so low that the doctors did not think he would survive. Nothing they did seemed to work due to the severe damage to his lungs caused by COVID-19. "The doctors didn't know what to do because they thought I was going to die, but they stayed with me."

In May, Castillo Tamayo miraculously began to improve. He was taken off the ventilator and discharged from the ICU, free of COVID-19, on June 7. Dr. Jamie Spiegelman calls what happened to Castillo Tamayo "a little bit of a miracle," and one of Humber's "biggest success stories."

Just over a year later, Castillo Tamayo and his wife, Maricar Pagulayan reflect: "We never thought our lives would be back to normal again. This is why we thank God and are so, so grateful to be here. I want to say, everybody, thank you. For taking care of me, for the operations, for everything while I was in the hospital, thank you. I am not 100% better, but I will hopefully get there soon. My hands and feet are still weak because COVID damaged my nerves, but I am getting better."



Contact me today and let's start making an impact.



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The information, statistics and funding priorities included in this document are accurate at time of distribution and are subject to change and verification by Humber River Hospital Foundation.



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