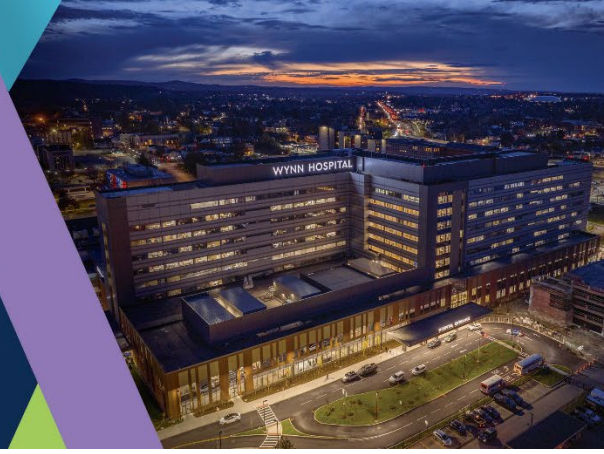


# Just the Facts

MVHS & WYNN HOSPITAL

There's so much happening in healthcare in our region – at times it's hard to stay updated! That's why Just the Facts is being reinvigorated. This weekly publication, published on Tuesdays, will provide you with the latest information about MVHS and the Wynn Hospital!



## TOPIC FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2024:

### Helicopter Pad (Helipad) at Wynn Hospital

The helipad next to Wynn Hospital (on top of the County garage) was certified by the FAA last week, and the first test flight was held. Additional test flights will continue in the next couple of weeks, and we anticipate that the helipad will be fully operational by the end of this month.

#### Why do hospitals need helipads?

- *Rapid Response Time:* Helicopters can traverse large distances in minimal time, making them invaluable for patients requiring immediate medical intervention, such as those suffering from strokes or severe trauma. It also allows for more timely treatment of those injured in remote areas.
- *Universal Accessibility:* Hospital helipads ensure that medical centers are accessible even from remote or congested areas, offering an alternative and faster route for patient transport. When seconds can count, making it as easy and quick as possible for the patient to receive care will increase the likelihood of a positive outcome.
- *Onboard Medical Facilities:* Air ambulances come equipped with state-of-the-art medical facilities, allowing for life-saving treatments to be administered during the flight to the medical center. Typically, the care provided in air ambulances are as good as a patient would receive in an ambulance.

#### Fast Facts:

- The helicopter pilot turns the helipad lights on remotely from the helicopter on their approach.
- The helipad is secured; Security and Facilities staff are the only ones with access to the helipad.
- Security has the ability to lock/hold the parking garage elevator, saving time.
  - Additionally, the garage has a dedicated set of two elevators that can be locked out for just Helipad/Trauma support.
- The sidewalk from the parking garage to the Emergency Department is heated so it can be used in inclement weather.
- Security will meet the flight crew and escort them to the area/unit where they need to go – they will never be left alone.
- The helipad will not impact parking on the fifth level of the parking garage; we only ask that pickup trucks without a cover on the truck bed do not park on that level to prevent debris from getting kicked up as that presents a safety hazard.

## FAQs:

- *Why do the white lights have the yellow covers over the tops?*
  - This is to light up the surface of the helipad while shielding the white light from the crew who is about to land. White lights, when looked at through night vision goggles, can sometimes wash out the view from the navigational system – similar to how you feel if you sit in a dark room and quickly turn on the lights. Having them covered from the top adds another layer of safety when landing at night.
- *How much does a helicopter weigh?*
  - The helicopter that performed the test landing last week weighs about 6,000 pounds.
- *Does the snow impact the ability for a helicopter to land on the helipad?*
  - The helipad is heated which allows it to be used even if there is snow or ice. There is also a drainage system built into the helipad.

