

Facts and Stats

Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center & Children's Hospital Regional Treatment Center/Special Pathogens Unit

Space Description:

14,000 square feet, 10 patient rooms, including critical care rooms

Capacity for patients with special pathogens:

Depending on type of pathogen and condition of patient, the SPU can care for multiple highly infectious disease patients.

Number of SPU-trained staff:

A team of 35 registered nurses and respiratory therapists from adult critical care and pediatric critical care units and float pool have committed to ongoing advanced training to support the special pathogens unit, in addition to specialized physicians. The team is supported by personnel in food and nutrition, cleaning/environmental services, a specialized lab and transportation to provide continuous readiness, and the highest level of care and safety should it be necessary.

Training:

The special pathogens team has been actively training since 2015. On a consistent basis, the team participates in training and education, including quarterly exercises, community-wide drills and monthly education. In addition, regular visits from the US Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Ebola Training & Education Center (NETEC) help maintain proficiencies and validate the expertise of the SPU space and team.

Special features:

The unit is a 14,000 square foot locked isolation unit that includes airborne isolation infection rooms (negative air flow throughout); including critical care capability, and rooms specifically designated for putting on and removing personal protective equipment; video monitoring capability; a designated lab; dedicated medical treatment equipment; specially selected and tested personal protective gear; and isolated storage areas.

Funding:

Initial construction and equipment for the SPU was partially funded with a \$1.6 million grant from the US Department of Health & Human Services in collaboration with the Washington State Department of Health. Funding has been renewed for 2020 to maintain the SPU facility and education.