

Bergen New Bridge Medical Center, NJ

Updating alternate care sites to meet COVID-19 needs



When the COVID-19 crisis reached the Bergen New Bridge Medical Center in Paramus, New Jersey, they knew they could expect a significant increase in patient intake. To remain proactive and prepared, the center wished to create new alternate care facilities to keep up with the growing demand for care and meet the community's changing needs. They began plans to convert a gymnasium into a 30-bed patient care center, as well as set up two 50 bed tents nearby. However, these spaces were not prepared to house patients in critical care and were lacking basic safety and comfort functionalities.

Advanced systems installation for COVID-19 response

Johnson Controls currently maintains the Bergen New Bridge Medical Center's campus-wide, networked, fire alarm system and were therefore a natural partner for their alternate care mission. The Johnson Controls team was able to work closely with hospital leaders to identify their needs and install the solutions that would meet them. Due to the rapidly expanding nature of the pandemic, it was crucial to expedite all processes while remaining thorough.

Location:

Bergen New Bridge Medical Center, NJ

Project Space:

Gymnasium and two outdoor tents

Project Scope:

Provide building solutions and services to support the creation of alternate care sites for COVID-19 response



"Adding this combined bed capacity provides our Medical Center with the flexibility to adapt our footprint to accommodate whatever needs may arise in the county and state. Given the unpredictability of the virus and the potential for additional surges, having this ability is essential for us to continue to provide all levels of care to our communities."

**- Deborah D. Visconi, President and CEO of
Bergen New Bridge Medical Center**

The Johnson Controls team quickly evaluated the gym area and called for the installation of additional notification appliances, pull stations, smoke detectors, a remote annunciator for the new nurse's station, sprinkler system monitor points and access control system control relays for the applicable gym doors. These improvements made the gym a safer location for both the patients and the staff caring for them. To facilitate communication between staff members, Johnson Controls also installed a wireless nurse call system, access controls systems and hard-wired panic buttons. Within the two outdoor tents, each holding up to 50 beds, Johnson Controls proposed the installation of a 4100ES fire alarm control panel with cellular central station communicator, notification appliances, initiating devices and access controls with hard-wired panic buttons.

"Adding this combined bed capacity provides our Medical Center with the flexibility to adapt our footprint to accommodate whatever needs may arise in the county and state. Given the unpredictability of the virus and the potential for additional surges, having this ability is essential for us to continue to provide all levels of care to our communities," said Deborah D. Visconi, president and CEO of Bergen New Bridge Medical Center.

Safer, more connected spaces for patient care

With the installation of fire and life safety systems, and advanced communication technologies, the Bergen New Bridge Medical Center's alternate care sites are operating at full capacity. The Johnson Controls team continues to work with the hospital to help them continue to meet their patients and staff's needs.

Moving forward, Johnson Controls will provide the installation labor, equipment, programming and testing on additional projects to enhance safety. The tents' fire alarm system will soon be augmented with the addition of Open-Area Smoke Imaging Detection (OSID), fire alarm equipment to monitor and control the tents' HVAC systems for a fire alarm condition and connection to the main campus' fire alarm system network. OSID will be used to protect the upper areas of the tents, which – because of the lack of ceilings – cannot not be fitted with area smoke detectors.

The network connection will allow facility staff to continuously receive the real-time status of the tents' fire alarm system by incorporating custom floor plan and graphics, which will display information and events on the Facility's TrueSite Workstation located at the main fire command center.

In addition, Johnson Controls will provide the necessary fire alarm interface equipment to monitor the duct smoke detectors installed on the hospital's HVAC units, and provide interfacing with these HVAC units for advanced control during a fire alarm condition. These additional updates will further protect occupants during a fire emergency.

Doctors, nurses and staff now work in environments that are safe and optimized for care, while patients are kept comfortable. The hospital is able to keep up with the rise of COVID-19 patients without sacrificing quality of care, keeping their community healthier and safer in the process.

The power behind **your mission**

