



# Shriners Hospital - St. Louis Relocation Questions & Answers

The Joint Boards of the Shrine Fraternity and Shriners Hospitals for Children voted in June to allow the St. Louis Hospital to relocate to the campus of Washington University Medical Center.

The decision was based on which location best meets the Shrine's three-part mission of **patient care, education, and research**. Locating near both the Medical

School and St. Louis Children's Hospital will allow even greater collaboration than we currently enjoy.

Moving closer to Washington University Medical Center will help Shriners Hospital better achieve our three-part mission.

Here are the answers to a few of the questions that many Shriners might have as we prepare for a new hospital in a new location.

**Q: Our current hospital looks like it's in good shape. Why do we need a new hospital?**

**A:** Shriners Hospital - St. Louis is well-maintained. We do all that we can to make our facility as safe and pleasant as possible. However, in many ways, our building is inadequate for delivering the state-of-the-art patient care we provide. For example, the concept of patient wards rather than private and semi-private rooms is outdated. Clinic space is inadequate and much of the building's infrastructure, while functioning safely and well, is outdated. For our patients, and our future, we need a building that anticipates the technology needs of the next 40 years, rather than "making do" with a building built for the medical care of 40 years ago.

**Q: What were the options for a new building?**

**A:** The final options considered for a new facility were: 1) Rebuild on site; 2) Build on the campus of Washington University Medical Center.

**Q: We were told a couple of years ago that we were definitely building a new hospital on our current site. What happened?**

**A:** In the past 18 months, two factors have become apparent. First, building on this site around the existing hospital, and allowing it to function during construction presented unique challenges. Second, and most importantly, the opinion of most health care professionals, especially physicians, is that complex orthopaedic care is best rendered near a full-services pediatric medical center so that any other services required by our children may most easily and quickly be acquired.

**Q: Why, specifically, is Washington University Medical Center the best location in the metro area for Shriners Hospital - St. Louis?**

**A:** The Washington University Medical Center campus is the best St. Louis location because:

- It is the home of Washington University Medical School where most of our doctors also care for patients, teach, and do research.
- It is the home of St. Louis Children's Hospital, one of the nation's finest full-service pediatric hospitals, and where we go for any additional specialized care for our children, including any emergencies.
- It is not only the home of the Medical School but also schools of nursing, physical and occupational therapies, social work, and an independent school of pharmacy. Each of these schools graduate professionals we will need to recruit in the future.
- The Medical Center is a major source of health-related, scientific research of all kinds, and there is an emerging emphasis on pediatric diseases of the bones and joints - which parallels the Shriners' research interests.

**Q: But won't we lose our identity as Shriners Hospital? Won't we just become another part of the complex of Wash U?**

**A:** No, absolutely not. First of all, our location will be highly visible as its own separate building from US-40/I-64. We'll actually have more individual visibility for the general public simply from our new location, including the opportunity for more prominent signage.

Furthermore, our mission of delivering the highest quality of care to children with orthopaedic conditions without charge to families or any other payor - as well as our proud affiliation with the Shrine fraternity - will continue to set us apart as unique in the world of health care.

**Q: When will we start building?**

**A:** It will take several years to complete the process. The first phase will be the design of the hospital to be followed by construction. The whole process could take as much as five years to complete.