

Construction Work at The James Information for Patients at Risk

Construction and remodeling projects at Ohio State Wexner Medical Center are in different stages of completion. Dust and dirt with fungal spores may be blown into the air during these construction projects. Breathing in the dust and dirt with fungal spores may increase the risk of certain types of lung infections in some people.

Who is at risk?

Anyone with a condition caused by illness, medicines, or treatments that put them at risk, including people:

- With hematologic cancers (leukemia and lymphoma).
- Taking chemotherapy or who have completed chemotherapy less than 6 months ago.
- Preparing for a bone marrow transplant within 6 months.
- Who had a bone marrow transplant and are taking medicine for graft versus host disease.
- Taking high dose steroids or other medicines for more than one month, such as medicines for rheumatoid arthritis and ulcerative colitis.
- Who have had a solid organ (heart, lung, kidney, liver) transplant.

Ask your doctor or nurse if you should wear a face mask when visiting or leaving the hospital.

How can I protect myself?

- When possible, avoid walking outside near construction sites.
- Use indoor walkways in between hospital buildings.
- Wear a face mask that covers both the nose and mouth when you are around construction sites.
- Wearing a special type of mask, called an N-95 face mask, is the only effective protection from breathing in fungal spores.

Where do I get an N-95 mask?

You may get N-95 masks at:

- Your doctor's office or clinic.
- A drug store, pharmacy, medical supply, or home improvement store.
- If you are currently in the hospital request one from your nurse.

When do I need to wear an N-95 mask?

If you are at risk for infection, put on a N-95 face mask before you get out of the car and keep it on until you get into the building. Wear the mask as you leave the building too.

This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.