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Washington Hospital Healthcare System to Become Alameda County's Next Trauma Center

Level II adult trauma center designation in the next five years

FREMONT, CA – Alameda County Emergency Medical Services Agency (ACEMSA) has approved Washington Hospital Healthcare System (WHHS) to be designated as the County's next level II adult trauma center within five years. While this decision follows an extensive yearlong evaluation of the County's current trauma system and trauma needs, Washington Hospital has been preparing to become a trauma center for more than two decades.

Results of the study commissioned by ACEMSA found that while Alameda County's trauma system is currently functioning well, the County will need one additional level II trauma center in the next five years based on projected population growth and trauma volume, and to minimize the number of patients sent to another county for trauma care. It was determined that with WHHS's trauma-ready facilities and decades of preparation to become a trauma center, it is well positioned to meet the needs of trauma victims in the South County Area within five years.

"Approval to become Alameda County's next trauma center is a major milestone in Washington Hospital's 64-year mission to meet the health care needs of our District residents," said Jeannie Yee, president of the Washington Township Health Care District Board of Directors. "For years our community has asked that we bring trauma care to the community, and now we can finally say that trauma care will be available locally within five years."

WHHS began preparing to become a trauma center two decades ago when it first announced its long-term Facility Master Plan, which was designed for the campus to expand along with our growing community. In 2018, the Hospital opened the modern Morris Hyman Critical Care Pavilion, specifically designed around trauma center requirements, including: 48 CCU beds, 39 Emergency Department rooms, trauma resuscitation bays and shell space that is now being developed into state-of-the-art operating rooms and other critical patient services, all housed in a seismically sound building.

“This momentous achievement reflects the dedication of our extraordinary staff, physicians, and volunteers who are committed to serving our community,” said WHHS CEO Kimberly Hartz. “We are thrilled to achieve this important milestone in our trauma journey, but now we must turn our attention to the tremendous amount of work required of us to earn Level II Adult Trauma Center designation. This journey goes to the core of who we are and our commitment to the health care needs of our growing community for many decades to come.”

WHHS will be Alameda County’s fourth trauma center, joining Highland Hospital, Eden Medical Center, and UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland. This new proposed South Alameda County trauma service area covers Hayward south of Industrial Blvd., Union City, Fremont, Newark, Sunol and the southern portion of the Tri-Valley Area. This change to the countywide trauma system is the first since ACEMSA designated the current trauma centers in 1987.

“Washington Hospital Healthcare System’s designation as Alameda County’s next trauma center will be an important step to meet South County’s growing population,” said Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Director Colleen Chawla. “I commend our Emergency Medical Services Agency for their disciplined analysis and our Washington Hospital colleagues for their foresight and preparation to ensure South County residents receive care within the critical moments following an injury.”

“WHHS will be a vital addition to the County’s existing trauma care system,” said Alameda County Emergency Medical Services Agency Director Lauri McFadden. “We are embarking on a multiple year process with WHHS that we are optimistic will result in trauma center designation. With their advance planning and preparation, we are confident that Washington Hospital Healthcare System is on the right path to meet the needs of their surrounding communities.”

Video announcement available at <https://youtu.be/OTbo51SrhdU>

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About Washington Township Health Care District

Washington Township Health Care District is governed by an elected board and includes Washington Hospital Healthcare System. Unlike a municipal or county hospital, Washington Hospital’s operating expenses, research, community programs, and employee salaries are funded by revenues generated through providing patient and other health care services. Opened in 1958, Washington Hospital Healthcare System has grown to include a 415-bed, acute-care hospital; the Taylor McAdam Bell Neuroscience Institute; Washington Radiation Oncology Center; Washington Outpatient Surgery Center; Washington Outpatient Rehabilitation Center; Institute for Joint Restoration and Research; Washington Township Medical Foundation; and Washington West, a complex which houses UCSF – Washington Cancer Center, Washington Women’s Center, Outpatient Imaging Center, Sandy Amos RN Infusion Center and additional outpatient hospital services and administrative facilities. Discover more at whhs.com, and through [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).