

NCH IN D8

[Residents Alliance Group](#) July (2) 2020

It will take 4 weeks to get the NCH site fully operational.

BAM as part of the Residents Monitoring Committee informed stakeholders of the reopening schedule for the NCH during July and August. The site will operate into the future as two independent locations, one on the south and one on the north side. The south location is already open and the north location should be open in 4 weeks' time. Between now and then BAM are putting in place Covid 19 procedures and systems to ensure the safety of workers while continuing to complete the Children's Hospital.

A turn stile operation is being installed at both locations and they will be a one way system. So on the south side the old entrance at the back of the Rialto stop will be the entrance and further up the Rialto bridge will be the exit. Each opening also has a door entrance for visitors/bikes etc.



Figure 1 South Side Location at Rialto Bridge and Luas Stop

Currently they are about 120 staff on site, BAM expect number to increase by 75 per week and they are monitoring the systems in place. Eventually they expect 500 workers using each gate with an additional 200 ancillary workers (crane/banks men) so it is expected to have 600 workers using each set of gates. The office staff about 120 also use the same entrance at the Rialto Luas stop but they exit again further down the linear park at an existing opening

The northern gate will cater for a similar number of workers entering and exiting the site through the underground car park along the new public road that also caters for all pedestrian access to the hospital from the SCR.



Figure 2 North Location entrance and exit locations

Catering capacity on the site has been reduced from 600 sit down places to 300 and it is not clear if separate facilities will be available on the northern location or whether they will need to cross over to the south location.

BAM are currently in discussion with DCC regarding staggered start and finish times, they are also in discussion with DCC about altering the use of the Davitt Road compound to include parking for workers on site and that workers will be encouraged to park here and Luas or walk down to site.

However a clear message from BAM is that they are only responsible for what happens on site, how people get there and how they leave and what and where they go during their breaks is their business. BAM states that during Covid 19 all it can do is encourage staff to be personally responsible and be aware of social distancing and the wearing of face masks.

The question remains **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE**, for the health and safety of the residents and the greater community around the hospital? Parking is already an issue that impacts on people lives but now we have 600 workers accessing the site along the linear park pathway, a pathway that is already heavily used by the community. Likewise, the public pedestrian access St James's hospital is also on a narrow footpath is to accommodate an additional 600 workers coming and going throughout the day.