



Bondfield Construction's senior site superintendent Bill Verhoog secures protective hoarding on 2 Shuter. Inside the plastic hoarding, a negative air machine runs to contain mold, dust and other particles within the construction zone. (Photo by Katie Cooper, Medical Media Centre)

CONSTRUCTION HAS BEGUN!

Infection control forms the foundation of St. Michael's redevelopment project

By Kate Manicom

Blueprints, building permits and bricks and mortar are what come to mind when thinking of construction, but in hospitals infection prevention is the critical first step in any renovation project. To keep patients, visitors and staff safe during St. Michael's 3.0 redevelopment project, the hospital's Infection Prevention and Control team is working with Bondfield Construction

to educate its crew about the risks building can pose in a hospital setting and how to prevent them.

"Construction can cause fungal spores, bacteria or other micro-organisms that are found in dust or standing water to become airborne, resulting in illnesses such as Aspergillus infections or Legionnaire's disease," explained Kasey Gambeta, a St. Michael's infection preventionist. "The hospital sees many patients who

are susceptible to infection, so specific safeguards need to be in place to protect them when construction activities occur."

St. Michael's IPAC team has developed an in-class education program for all construction workers who will be on site to build the Peter Gilgan Patient Care Tower and renovate the existing hospital space. The session takes approximately one hour and teaches which patients

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