

# Frequently Asked Questions about the Weapons Detection Screening System

## **Why is Luminis Health (LH) installing a weapons detection screening technology system?**

The safety and wellbeing of our patients, visitors and staff is a top priority for Luminis Health. As part of our continued security efforts, Luminis Health is installing a Concealed Weapons Detection Screening System as another layer of our comprehensive security program. Thank you for your support and understanding.

## **Where and when will the weapons detection screening system be deployed?**

The system is used as part of our check-in process at our Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center (LHAAMC) Emergency Department as our first phase. Our second phase of implementation is planned for the Luminis Health Doctor's Community Medical Center (LHDCMC) Emergency Department. As the program is developed use of the system will be evaluated and strategic deployment at other Luminis Health campuses and entrances will be considered. Phase 1 will start at: **9 a.m. on Thursday, February 13, 2025**. Phase 2 at LHDCMC is in a grant review phase with tentative approval June 2025.

## **How are other entries into the hospital building/facilities that don't have weapon screening being monitored?**

Other hospital entrances have previously been restricted requiring badge access for entry or are screened through our visitor management process. Hospital entrances are also equipped with security surveillance cameras to additional monitoring.

## **I have a concealed carry permit. Can I keep my weapon on me?**

No, Luminis Health policy prohibits patients, families or visitors from bringing weapons of any kind into our facilities regardless of legal authorization to carry. You may safely store/secure your weapon in your residence or other secure location. If you are unable to do so, Luminis Health will call law enforcement to safely secure your weapon until safe return can be coordinated with that agency.

## **Will there be a long wait to pass through the weapons detection screening station?**

The impact on patients, families and visitors should be minimal. This state-of-the-art screening system can scan approximately one person per second or about 3600 individuals per hour, allowing for high throughput screening without requiring individuals to remove personal items like phones or belts. Items that WILL likely need to be removed may include laptops, tablets, iPads, large metal drink containers, etc. If an alert is triggered during your initial pass-through, you will be asked to remove any bags/purses/backpacks/briefcases to allow the security officer at the station to conduct a manual secondary wand screening, and then you will be asked to pass through the screening station again.

### **Will I need to remove any clothing or accessories from my body (i.e. shoes, belts, etc.)?**

No, individuals will not be asked to remove any clothing from their bodies – secondary screening using manual wands will help to facilitate targeted scanning when/if needed. Verbal communication with the security officer will help to pinpoint where sensors might be picking something up.

### **What is secondary screening?**

Secondary screening is only performed by Security when the screening system alarms for a possible weapon. Security will inform the individual that an item was detected and ask the individual to verify the item. This may include:

- The individual being screened using a handheld device to scan them without contact.
- Asking the individual to open their bag or show the item(s) for a closer inspection.

Security will not physically be searching bags; only visual searches will be conducted.

### **What if a visitor presents or declares that they have a weapon when arriving at our facility?**

The visitor will not be allowed in and may only return without the weapon. The visitor will be screened again before being allowed to enter the facility.

### **Can I pass through the weapon detection screening station with an implanted medical device?**

Yes, implanted devices should not trigger the system to alert. Metal detection wands will be present at each station for more targeted scanning as needed or may be necessary. If an individual is not comfortable doing so, they will be directed to the secondary screening.

### **What should I do with my stroller, wheelchair or car seat?**

Individuals can go through the screening system with strollers, wheelchairs and car seats. If you have a bag attached to the stroller or wheelchair, you may be asked to remove it and carry it as you go through the screening location.

### **Do other healthcare institutions check for weapons or use this technology?**

Yes. Several local and prominent healthcare institutions across the nation have installed weapons detection technology. As an example, Cleveland Clinic, Mayo Clinic, Kaiser Permanente, Johns Hopkins Medicine, Frederick Health, and many other hospitals in our region have publicly disclosed that they check for weapons upon entry to their buildings.