



May 27, 2025

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Rock breaking and chipping at QEII Halifax Infirmary construction site

Q1. When is rock breaking and chipping taking place at the Halifax Infirmary construction site?

Rock breaking and chipping started in April at areas farther away from the hospital and – now that blasting is complete – will be moving closer to the hospital building. For these areas closer to the hospital, crew scheduling has been modified to limit the noise impacts to hospital operations.

Q2. Will there be any rock breaking or chipping on weekends or statutory holidays?

Currently no rock breaking or chipping is scheduled to occur on weekends or statutory holidays.

Q3. When will the rock breaking and chipping phase be over?

Rock breaking and chipping will continue throughout the summer, with an anticipated ending in August.

Q4. What techniques/equipment will be used to break and chip the rock?

In areas where there is a large volume of rock to remove, and where feasible, the rock is line-drilled to create clean fractures within the rock, the detailed breaking is then done utilizing excavation equipment equipped with hydraulic rock breakers. Larger equipment is used to break apart the majority of the rock and then smaller equipment is needed to complete the detailed rock chipping around foundations. This combination of equipment ensures noise and disruptions are limited.



Q5. I live/work near the Halifax Infirmary construction site. Will there be a warning that the rock breaking and chipping is about to begin (like there was with blasting)?

No warning horns will be used to signal rock breaking. Rock breaking will be periodic during the course of the scheduled work times and does not pose any safety risks to the public outside of the construction worksite.

Q6. How will rock breaking and chipping impact the community surrounding the QEII Halifax Infirmary?

Rock breaking is noisy and may be disruptive at times. That said, it is a necessary part of construction. The rock is too close to the hospital building to blast safely, so mechanical rock breaking is the only option. Rock breaking will take place in areas farther away from the Halifax Infirmary on a daytime schedule (6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.) with areas that are sensitive to the operation of the hospital occurring after 3 p.m., as noted below.

Q7. How will rock breaking and chipping impact hospital operations?

We expect impacts to operations to be minimal. From May 26 to 30, 2025 between 3 and 6 p.m., some rock breaking will occur closer to the hospital. This work will shift to an evening schedule as of June 2, 2025 running from 3 p.m. to midnight for the remainder of areas closer to the existing building to allow the work to safely progress, while limiting impact to daytime clinical operations.

Q8. Where are the dump trucks taking the rock? Are there any environmental impacts for the rock disposal?

All excavated material leaving the site is tested and classified based on composition and environmental regulations. All bedrock has been determined to be Sulphate bearing Pyritic slate and will be deposited at Halifax Port Authority's approved Facility for Pyritic Slate or an alternate approved receiving facility in the event that either the HPA facilities are closed for maintenance or if constituents in the rock are found to exceed the HPA facilities receiving criteria.



Q9. What measures are being put in place to minimize the impact to the environment?

Erosion & Sediment Control Plans have been implemented on site. In addition, fencing scrim and water trucks for dust mitigation are also in place. Licensing has been obtained from the Port Authority and alternate receiving sites for rock disposal and neutralization.