

Two Yonkers hospitals to explore merger

Two independent Yonkers hospitals have started merger talks, according to a joint announcement released Thursday afternoon.

St. John's Riverside Hospital and St. Joseph's Medical Center said their respective boards and management teams had agreed to "explore opportunities for integration between the two facilities." The two hospitals, which both have roots dating to the late 19th century, are about 3 miles apart on Broadway and among the last in the region to lack a major health system partner.

St. John's Riverside had been negotiating a deal to join the Montefiore Health System [since 2018](#). Hospital officials could not immediately comment on the status of those negotiations.

Covid-19 has taken a [financial toll](#) on even the region's largest health systems. The margin for error at smaller community hospitals is much smaller. The pandemic led to higher staffing and protective equipment costs as well as months of lost revenue from the state's ban on nonurgent surgeries.

St. John's Riverside has 405 beds at its main campus and two satellite campuses, with an emergency department and ambulatory surgery center in Dobbs Ferry and 141 licensed detox and substance-use rehabilitation beds at the ParkCare Pavilion in Yonkers, according to state Department of Health data.

St. Joseph's Medical Center has 191 beds, including 43 psychiatric beds and numerous outpatient clinics. St. Vincent's Hospital Westchester in Harrison, a division of St. Joseph's, has 139 beds for treatment of psychiatric and substance-use disorders.

Local residents stand to "potentially benefit from a streamlined health care delivery system, and we are looking forward to learning about the possibilities," Ronald Corti, president and CEO of St. John's Riverside, said in a statement. Michael Spicer, CEO of St. Joseph's, similarly noted the benefits of a combined organization. The announcement was careful to highlight expansion several times.

Montefiore Health System has faced community opposition to its plans to close a hospital in Mt. Vernon and replace it with an emergency department and ambulatory care center. The health system [said this week](#) it was reconsidering that plan. — Jonathan LaMantia

CORRECTION: St. Joseph's Medical Center includes St. Vincent's Hospital Westchester in Harrison. The scope of the medical center was misstated in an earlier version of this article.