

Syosset's Psychiatry Unit to Remain Temporarily Closed

The inpatient psychiatry unit at Northwell Health's Syosset Hospital will remain temporarily closed even as lawmakers and [nurses urge its reopening](#).

The hospital had closed the 20-bed unit March 23 to provide additional capacity for Covid-19 cases.

It is still closed so these additional medical/surgical beds are available in the event of a second spike in Covid activity, a spokeswoman said. The continued availability of the beds is in accordance with the governor's directive for hospitals to maintain a 30% surge capacity, she added.

Northwell did not respond when asked about reopening plans or a timeline. "We continually evaluate bed availability in the context of patient needs," the spokeswoman said, adding it is important to note that Northwell experienced a large reduction in inpatient demand for psychiatry services during March and April, with only 50% of psychiatric beds filled across its system.

The New York State Nurses Association, Assemblyman Michael Montesano and advocates protested the closure July 16, pointing to the need for psychiatric care in the community. Patients who require treatment in an inpatient setting are being accommodated at other hospitals within Northwell's inpatient behavioral health network, primarily at South Oaks Hospital in Amityville and Zucker Hillside Hospital in Glen Oaks, the spokeswoman said.