

POLITICO NEW YORK

City to invest \$52M in Metropolitan Hospital for capital improvements

By AMANDA EISENBERG

New York City will spend \$52 million to repair NYC Health + Hospitals/Metropolitan and make upgrades to meet new compliance requirements, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced today.

The city will sink \$25 million into upgrading the East Harlem public hospital's emergency power system and \$12 million into bringing the automatic fire sprinkler infrastructure up to new requirements.

The city will spend \$400,000 to replace the hospital's cooling towers, which it said are nearing the end of life, with a newer model. Within the past decade, the incidence rate of Legionnaires' Disease, an airborne bacteria that grows in damp places like cooling towers, increased to 4.7 per 100,000 people in 2017 from 2.3 per 100,000 people in 2007, according to city data.

The city will spend an additional \$1.6 million on an energy-efficient water unit and replace a leaking roof. It will spend \$13 million on replacing patient-accessible windows with anti-breakage ones in the behavioral health units.

A hospital spokesperson said the upgrades will meet new standards in line with the future compliance dates.

The city did not immediately confirm when construction will begin, though the projects are expected to be completed as early as spring 2019 and into late 2021.