



“The new TCID is one of only six hospitals like it in the United States and has the largest concentration of air isolation patient rooms in this country.”

– James Elkins, FACHE
TCID Director



Texas Center for Infectious Disease

Tuberculosis is highly contagious and can infect anyone. While many people believe tuberculosis (TB) has been eliminated in the United States, in fact an estimated 10 to 15 million Americans are currently infected and approximately 22,000 new cases occur each year. Once infected, it can take six months to two years to completely eliminate TB from the system.

The Texas Department of State Health Services needed to replace its aging facilities where patients with TB receive necessary treatment and care. O'Connell Robertson was selected to design the Texas Center for Infectious Disease (TCID), the first new free-standing infectious disease hospital built in the United States in more than 50 years. The purpose of this unique facility is to prevent the spread of TB, support the required treatment and provide a safe home for long-term patients, many of whom were hospitalized involuntarily.

Initially, patients are considered contagious and require complete isolation, which is accomplished by maintaining air pressure relationships. However, this is costly and unnecessary once the patient is no longer infectious. A highly sophisticated engineering system was needed to support these environmental concerns. The HVAC system was designed to allow air pressure to go from negative to neutral in each room so the patient can remain in the same room throughout his or her stay while also minimizing energy usage.

Because patients may remain at TCID for months or even years, rooms were designed to feel more like home. Activity areas and outdoor spaces encourage social interaction and support recuperation. At the same time, safeguards are incorporated to protect patients, staff and the public.

By integrating complex engineering and architectural design principles, patients with TB now have a safe, restful and comfortable environment for healing.