

VISTA VIEW

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Is Nemours coming to Lake Nona?

The proposed Nemours Children's Hospital, which has been focusing on three possible Orlando locations, recently announced that the Lake Nona location is currently the leading candidate. The other locations under consideration include a 28-acre site owned by the Nemours Foundation near the Mall at Millenia in south Orlando, and the downtown campus of Orlando Regional Healthcare. The Jacksonville-based foundation plans to settle on a location for its children's hospital within the next few months.

Some objections have been raised by officials at Orlando Regional as well as state regulators with respect to the proposed downtown and Millenia locations. Opponents of these locations feel that the close proximity to Arnold Palmer Children's Hospital would result in a duplication of services. Nemours original application for permission to build the children's hospital, which was submitted in April of this year, was denied by state regulators for this reason.

Another factor which has made the Lake Nona location a favorable option is the proposed biomedical campus planned for this area. Many feel that with the proposed Burnham Institute and UCF Medical School, the Nemours children's hospital would have the benefit of existing in and contributing to an environment of research, education and medical care.