

Clinics for Crisis

Helen Strong, 2020

We should never have needed them. But the fearful pandemic is here. Globally, medical resources have been strained to breaking point. Nowhere, is there sufficient doctors, nurses, hospital beds and healing drugs to fight the curse that is covid-19. Those providing the necessary care services put themselves at extreme risk of contracting the virus. PPE stock levels run low, as carers urgently try to maintain protection between themselves and the patients who, with one cough, can infect all those around them.

Some places are better off than others. Rich countries like China took the bit in their teeth and over-night created thousands of new beds. They built hospital infrastructure in 7 to 10 days (Beijing and Wuhan)¹. London adapted a convention centre to become a make-shift hospital². Even Central Park in New York hosts a Covid Virus field-hospital³.

Our country has an urgent need, but is cash-strapped to deal with the problem. This is why DeltaBloc is proposing a rapid, affordable and workable solution.

The situation is more complex in South Africa. Whilst there has been urban migration, a large majority of South African regard their birthplace in a rural area as home. Medical clinics in these forsaken areas are few and far between. There is a desperate need to quickly provide more healthcare facilities for the expected, but unprecedented, influx of patients.

These clinics need to be in a secure environment to protect the people and equipment within the area. There must be sufficient space for social distancing in waiting areas; the ability to separate out symptomatic patients who require immediate attention; good-sized consulting rooms; and ward rooms for temporary isolation for people diagnosed as positive. Finally, the grim reality is even the need for refrigerators for patients who succumb or do not recover.

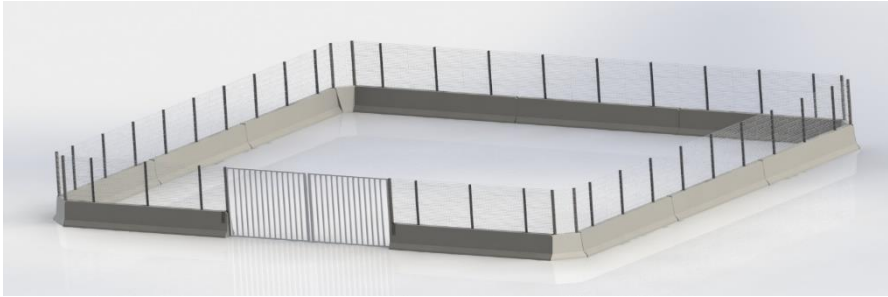
To enable efficient functioning there has to be accommodation, laundry and catering services to allow continuous on-site presence of doctors and nurses. (Where caterers would also provide for patients before they are transported to more central hospitals.)

Can South Africa provide such secure clinics in ultra-quick time?

This is where Delta Secure comes into its own. Within a **matter of weeks** Delta Bloc SA, in cooperation with its agents and distributors, can provide medical managers in the bush (or even towns!) with **customised clinical premises**. Through your hearts and hands, we can help doctors and leaders to save lives.

How can it be done?

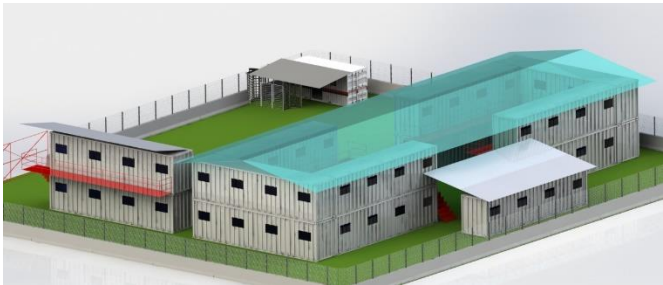
First, in the identified land, we secure the perimeter.



The clinic's staff can rest assured that they can deliver uninterrupted medical services. They, the drugs, technology and equipment are all in a safe environment.

Then we bring in the pre-prepared modules which have been configured to the medical manager's / superintendent's specifications. All the required living, working, and relaxing spaces can be included in the layout.

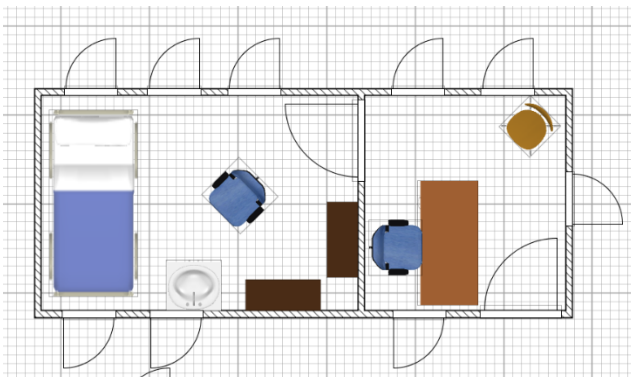
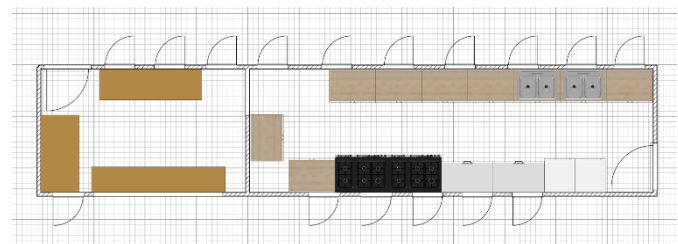
Special attention has been given in the design to ensure that the least level of contact occurs at all levels. Materials are selected to enable easy disinfection of common areas. And in all cases opportunities are taken to ensure social distancing is a reality.



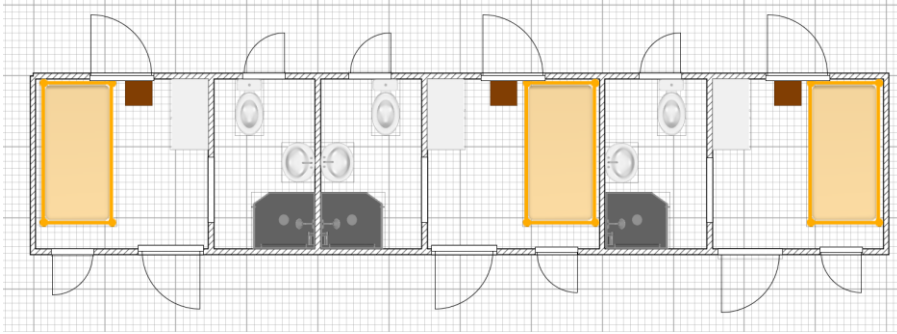
Individual wards for patient isolation.

Special measures are taken in the queuing and waiting areas to prevent close contact between individual patients.

Kitchen and individual eating facilities for the safe preparation and consumption of food.



Consulting rooms and administrative offices designed to put space between patients and staff.



Isolation wards for patients -- either whilst recovering or on a short-term basis awaiting transfer to central hospitals.

In true South African style, it IS POSSIBLE to design and build a clinic where it is needed. Facilities for medical services for hundreds of people can be ready in a matter of weeks. All it needs is the leadership that will get the clinics on the ground.

For more information:

Contact: Nqoba Nkabinde 078 104 0420
or Craig Strong 083 256 8361

References

- 1) Ankel, S. (2020) *A construction expert broke down how China built an emergency hospital to treat Wuhan coronavirus patients in just 10 days.* Business Insider. Available from < <https://www.businessinsider.com/how-china-managed-build-entirely-new-hospital-in-10-days-2020-2?IR=T> > [Accessed 19 April 2020]
- 2) Schraer, R (2020) *Coronavirus: ExCeL Centre planned as NHS field hospital* BBC News, Available from: < <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-52018477> > [Accessed 19 April 2020]
- 3) Bryner, J. (2020) *Photos: Coronavirus file hospitals across the US.* Live Science, Available from < <https://www.livescience.com/coronavirus-field-hospitals-photos.html> > [Accessed 19 April, 2020]