

COVID-19 planning & design recommendations for INTERIOR DESIGN & FINISHES



post COVID-19 planning & design recommendations for
INTERIOR DESIGN & FINISHES



introduction

Today’s fight against the invisible threat of COVID-19 poses a new set of challenges that require quick, concise and innovative solutions. This is especially true for spaces of care and healing, though many of the concerns that need to be addressed into those spaces can also translate to spaces for low to moderate risk employees.

To address these challenges, it is important to think not only of aesthetics, but of all functional design considerations to create safe, comforting environments. These considerations include cleanability, durability, practicality and technology. The integration of these considerations is continuously evolving, and it is imperative during these trying times that designs are revisited and re-examined for improvements and that future projects adopt these design considerations with adaptability in mind. Additionally, spaces of care and healing must still embrace the importance of beauty and design in order to achieve a much needed sense of order and calmness, especially in times of uncertainty.

The strategies and solutions presented in the following report can be adapted to the unique needs of each healthcare system or employer. Some of the ideas presented can be implemented quickly and seamlessly to existing spaces to address immediate COVID-19 concerns, while others may influence new design, maintenance and infrastructural standards.

“Design acknowledges change. Its meaning encompasses change in our times. To design is to ‘create order and to function according to a plan.’ The notion of change and design move along the same path.”

- Sara Little Turnbull
Inventor of 3M’s N95 mask



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interior design considerations



INFECTION PREVENTION

Prevention of viral, bacterial, and fungal infections through hand sanitation zones and cleaning protocols.



MATERIALITY

Finish selection should be made considering many different factors such as cleanability and durability, not aesthetics alone.



COMMUNICATION

Clear and concise signage should be displayed to communicate current facility protocols and recommended guidelines.



TECHNOLOGY

Using technology to offer alternative methods of delivering care, provide innovative ways to communicate, and maximize hands-free interactions.



NAVIGATION

Directional elements tied into the design of the space serve as an easy to comprehend guide to navigate throughout a facility.



PROXEMICS

Decompression of dense spaces can be achieved by reducing seat counts and by distancing users from one another.



STORAGE

Sufficient storage should be provided for both personal belongings as well as for protective equipment and disinfectants.

entrance & waiting



INFECTION PREVENTION



MATERIALITY



COMMUNICATION



TECHNOLOGY



NAVIGATION



PROXEMICS



STORAGE



separation of larger waiting into family-sized micro-waiting










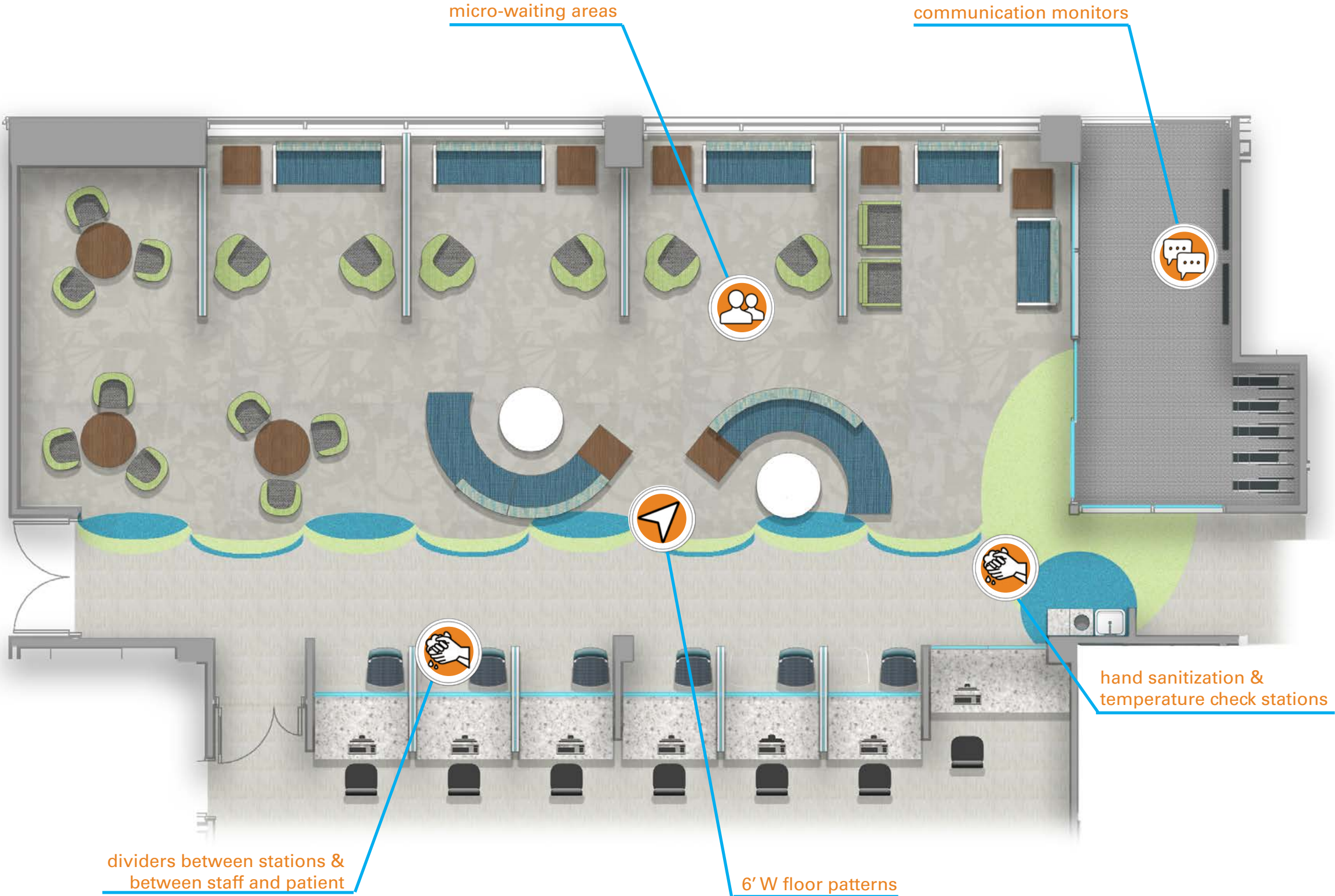
designated pathways separate circulation and waiting space



coated upholsteries that hold up to CDC approved cleaners

entrance & waiting

-  INFECTION PREVENTION
-  MATERIALITY
-  COMMUNICATION
-  TECHNOLOGY
-  NAVIGATION
-  PROXEMICS
-  STORAGE



outpatient clinics



INFECTION PREVENTION



MATERIALITY



COMMUNICATION



TECHNOLOGY



NAVIGATION



PROXEMICS



STORAGE

Mercy Medical, Sister Caritas Cancer Center
Springfield, MA



concealed storage
for PPE and cleaning
products



designated areas for
handwashing in every
treatment room



specifying easily
cleanable surfaces



outpatient clinics



INFECTION PREVENTION



MATERIALITY



COMMUNICATION



TECHNOLOGY



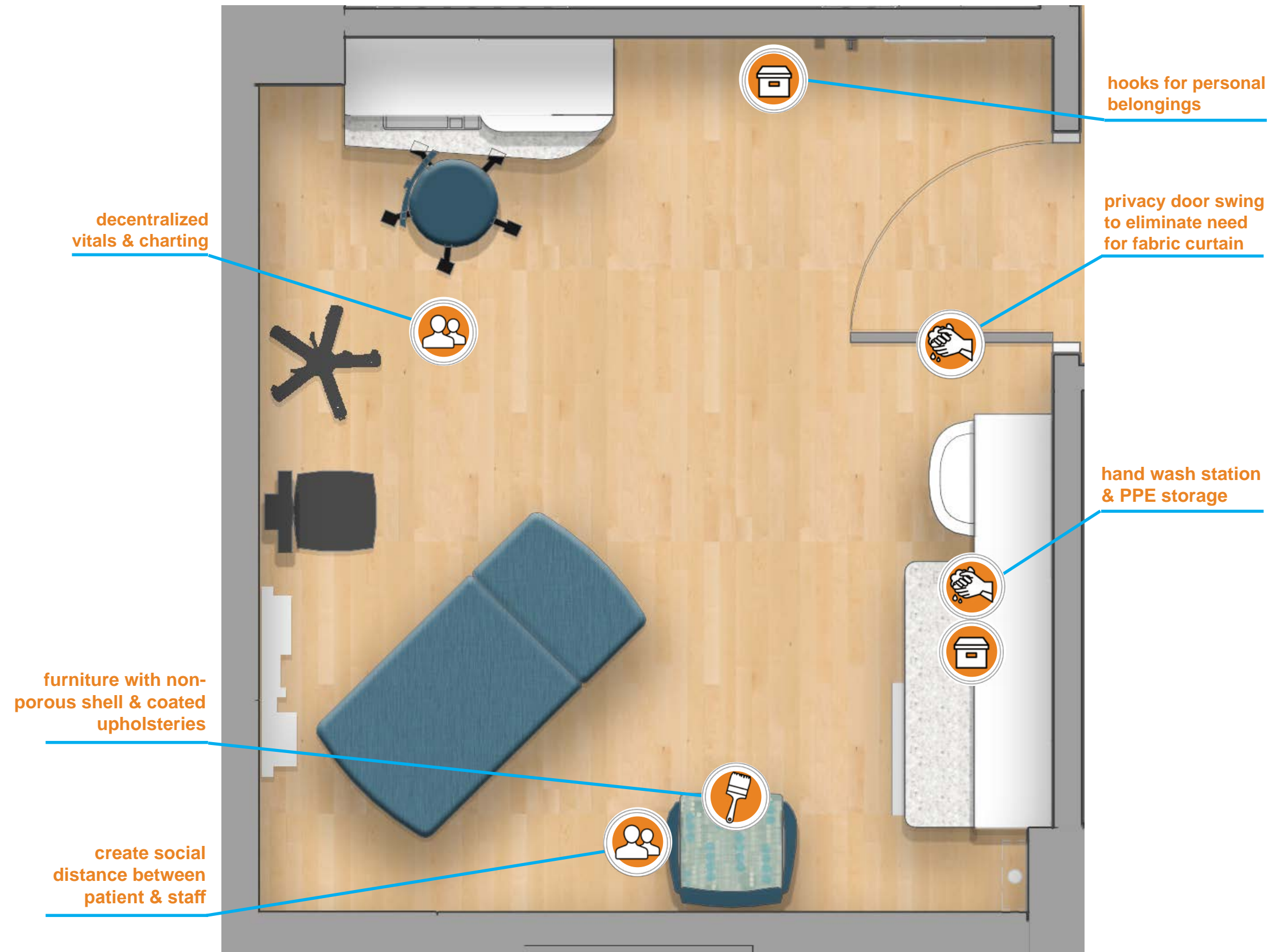
NAVIGATION



PROXEMICS



STORAGE



outpatient clinics



INFECTION PREVENTION



COMMUNICATION



NAVIGATION



MATERIALITY



TECHNOLOGY



PROXEMICS



STORAGE

inpatient environments



INFECTION PREVENTION



MATERIALITY



COMMUNICATION



TECHNOLOGY



NAVIGATION



PROXEMICS



STORAGE

University of Vermont Medical Center
Burlington, VT

occupancy sensed
lighting to limit
interactions with switches










designated patient
and family storage for
personal items

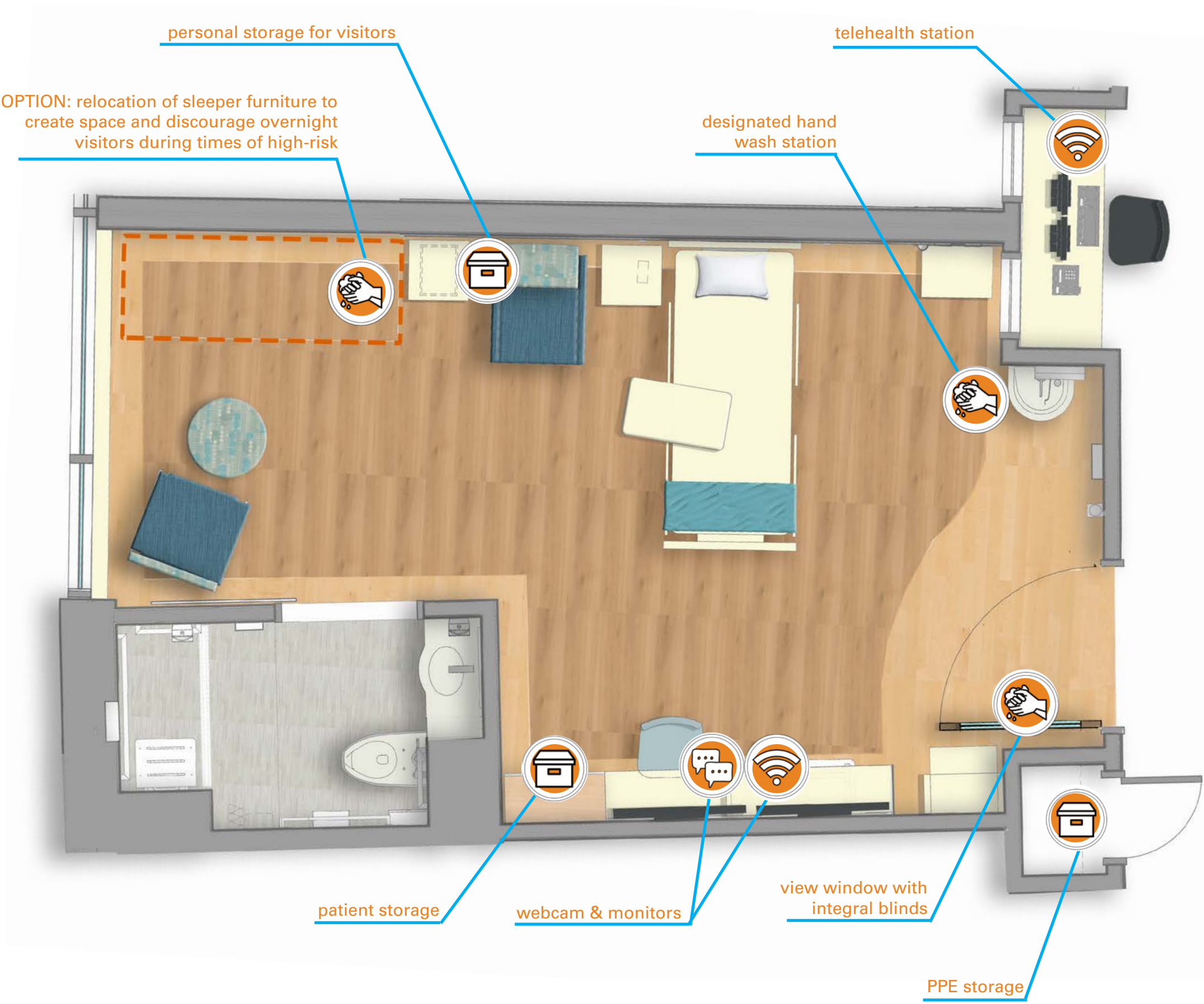


seamless and
non-porous finishes










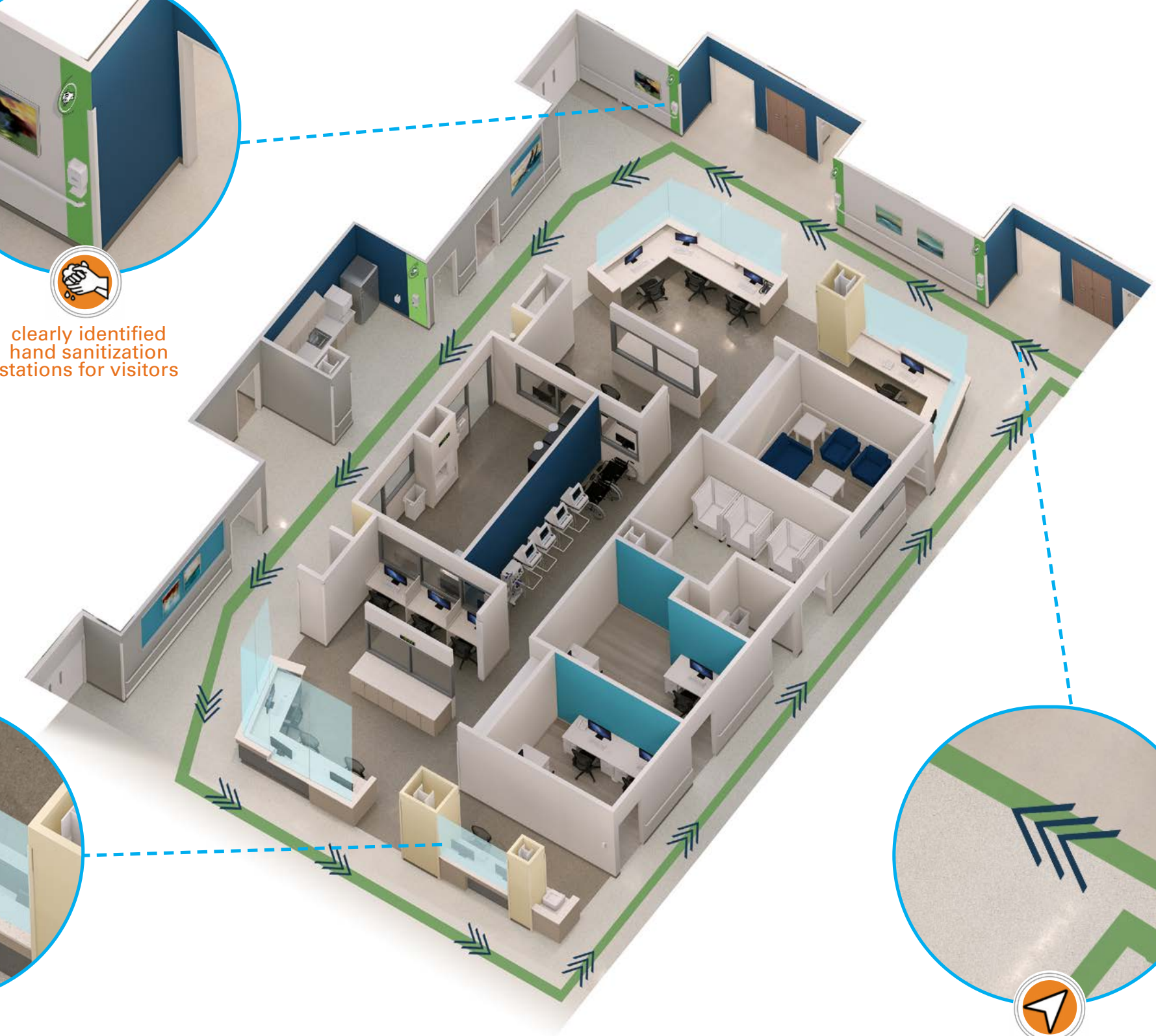
inpatient environments

-  INFECTION PREVENTION
-  MATERIALITY
-  COMMUNICATION
-  TECHNOLOGY
-  NAVIGATION
-  PROXEMICS
-  STORAGE



inpatient environments

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clearly identified hand sanitization stations for visitors

transparent dividers between nurse stations and visitors

directional floor patterns help encourage patients to travel in a one-way pattern

work environments



INFECTION PREVENTION



MATERIALITY



COMMUNICATION



TECHNOLOGY



NAVIGATION



PROXEMICS



STORAGE

Shady Grove Fertility Clinic & Surgery Center
Rockville, MD



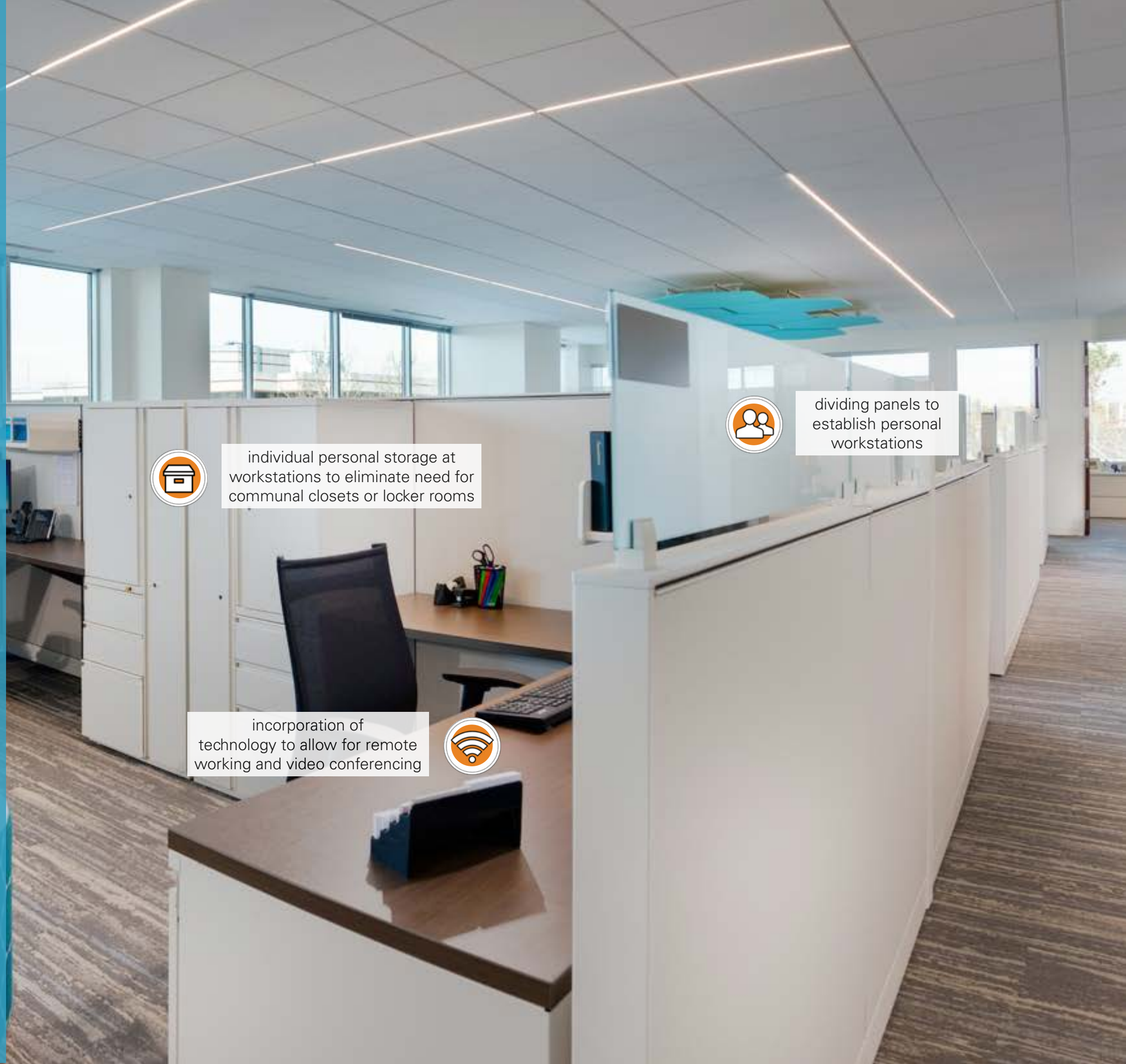
individual personal storage at workstations to eliminate need for communal closets or locker rooms










dividing panels to establish personal workstations

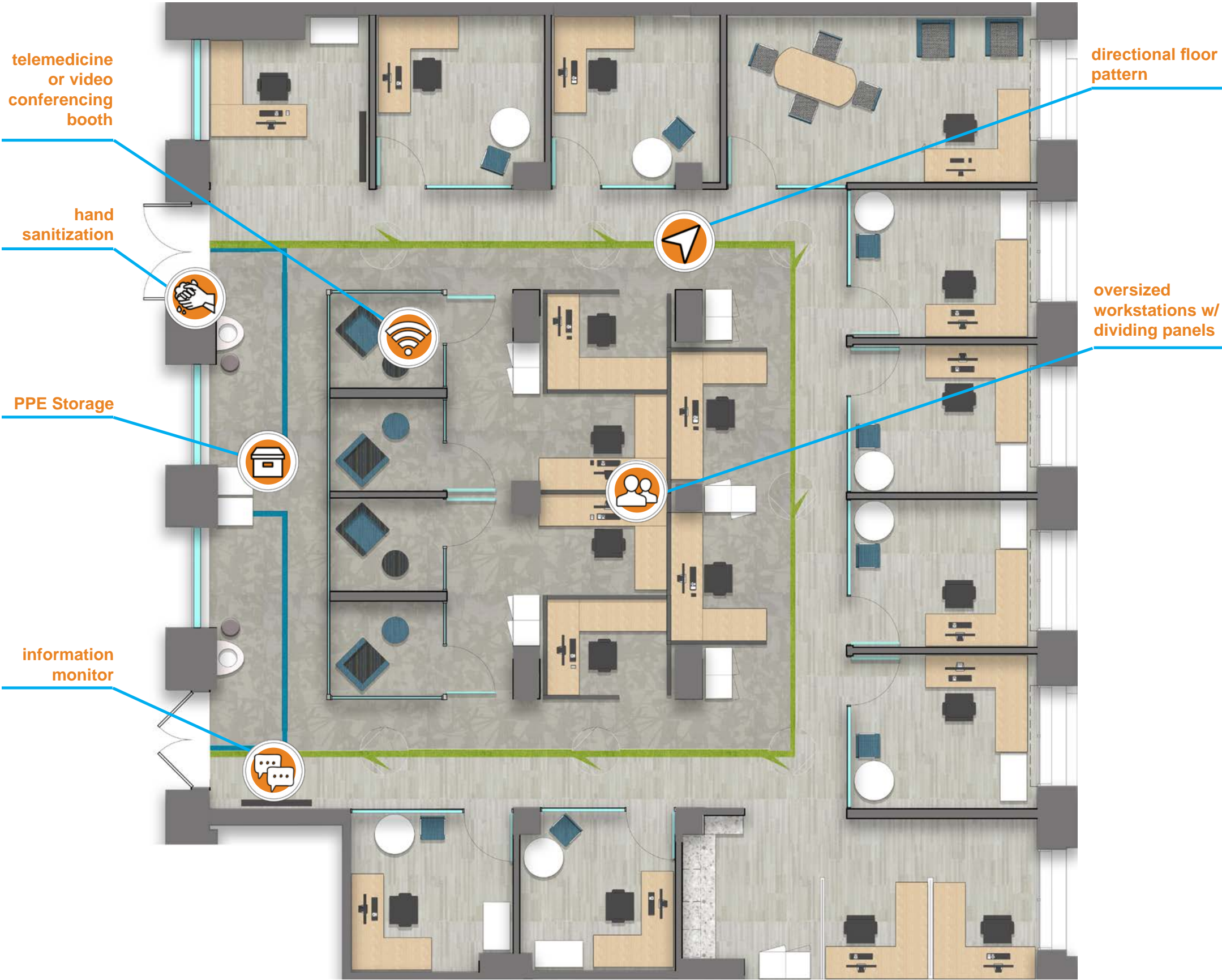


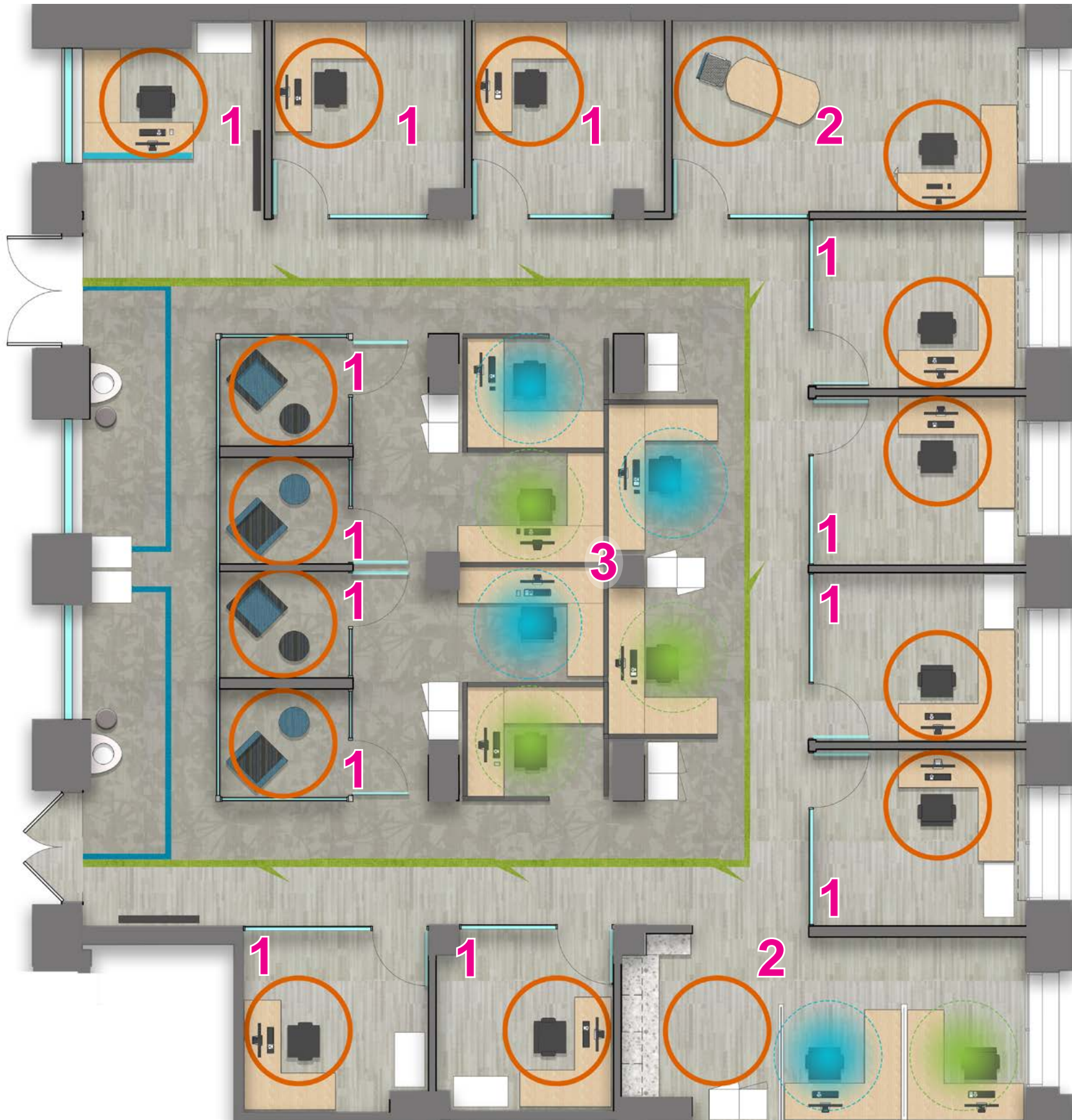
incorporation of technology to allow for remote working and video conferencing



work environments

-  INFECTION PREVENTION
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work environments

Alternate work days for staff working in open office environments



'A' DAYS: MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY



'B' DAYS: TUESDAY, THURSDAY

Identify required 6' distance and provide maximum occupancies for each room



REQUIRED 6' DISTANCE



MAXIMUM OCCUPANCY

staff support spaces



INFECTION PREVENTION



MATERIALITY



COMMUNICATION



TECHNOLOGY



NAVIGATION



PROXEMICS



STORAGE

Northwell Health, 600 Community Drive
Manhasset, NY










occupancy sensed
lighting to limit
interactions with switches

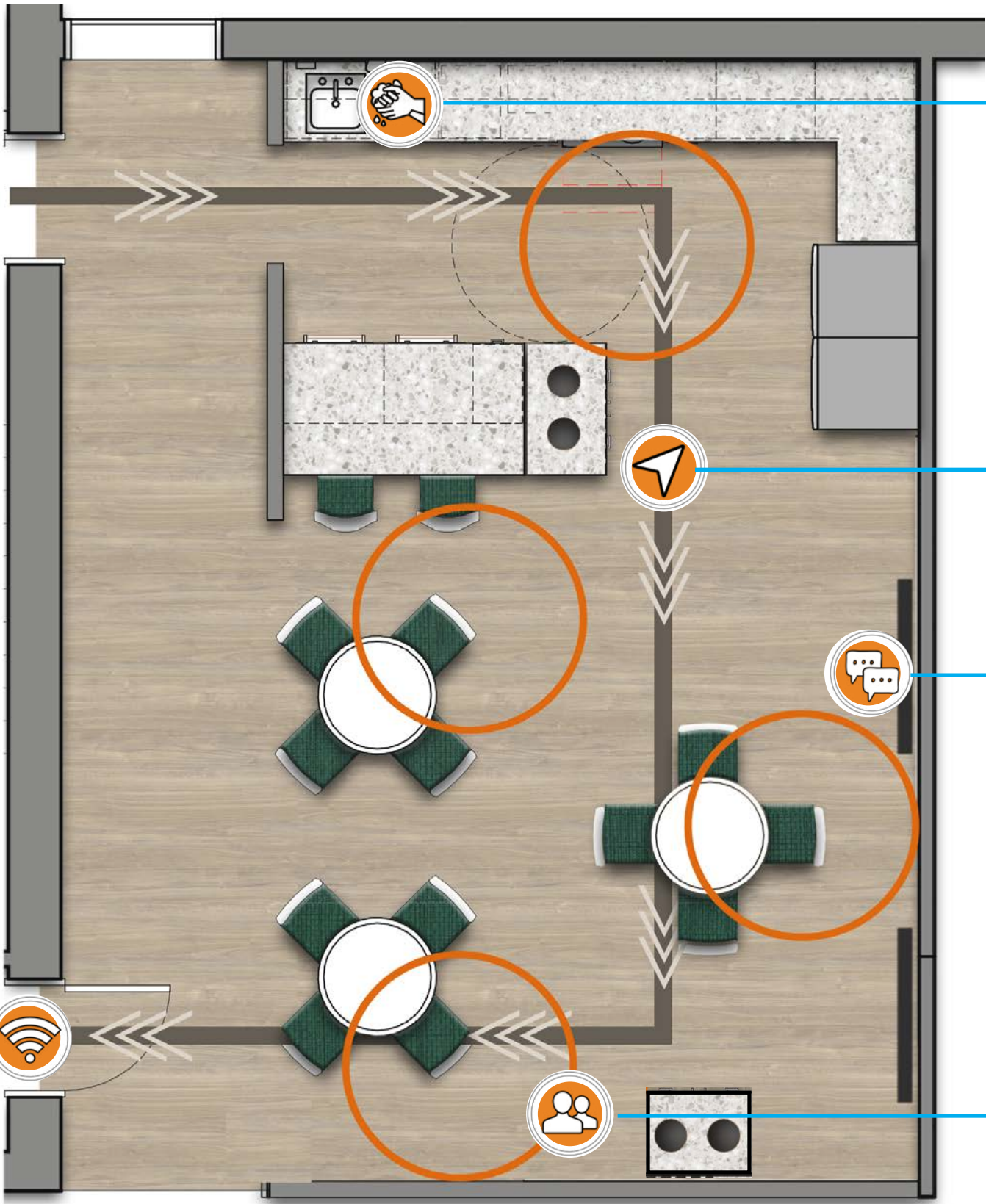


furniture with non-porous
shells and metal legs

staff support spaces

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automatic door swing operator
for hands-free operation



sink at entrance
to encourage
hand washing

directional floor pattern
or applied graphic for
one-way traffic

monitors for news,
announcements, and
safety protocols

identify 6' radius of
distance and maximum
occupancy of room
(3-4 max occupancy is shown)

For more information on COVID-19 planning, design, and implementation considerations, visit the [COVID-19 Resource page](#) on our website.

e4harchitecture.com/covid-19-resource-page/

