

Adventist HealthCare (“AHC”) held a public meeting on April 14, 2026, at the BlackRock Center for the Arts located at 12901 Town Commons Drive, Germantown, MD 20874 to discuss the closure of the Germantown Emergency Center (“GEC”). The public informational hearing was hosted by Daniel Cochran, President of AHC’s Shady Grove Medical Center (“SGMC”) and Todd Cohen, AHC Vice President of Facilities at Real Estate. Also present at the hearing was AHC Board Member Dr. Safy John, a critical care physician, along with other AHC health system leaders.

Mr. Cochran discussed the reasons for the closure of the GEC due to significant changes in Germantown’s healthcare landscape, including the addition of a hospital and abundant urgent care centers which are all located within a 5-mile radius of the GEC, as well as the decrease in the volume at the GEC. He explained that AHC was thoughtful in its decision to close the GEC and remains committed to serving the community and meeting its health care needs. Mr. Cochran discussed that emergency care will continue at nearby hospitals, including SGMC, and that EMS already transports higher acuity patients directly to full-service hospitals. He further noted that the opening of a new patient care tower at SGMC will help improve efficiency and throughput of emergency room patients.

Mr. Cochran highlighted that AHC values each team member who has made the GEC a trusted healthcare provider in the area, noting that a majority of the GEC team members have been offered, applied for or are working with AHC on new roles within the health system. Mr. Cohen then discussed the plans for the GEC’s physical space and noted that other AHC services in Germantown, such as imaging, primary care, and cardiology, will remain open. Mr. Cohen stated that the GEC would remain open and available to fully serve the community until its closure on June 30, 2026.

Montgomery County health officials in attendance at the meeting also highlighted ongoing collaboration with AHC to ensure patients, especially uninsured residents, can access appropriate levels of care, through strengthening connections to primary care, urgent care, and alternative care pathways through EMS coordination.

The meeting concluded with questions from attendees about access, wait times and services along I-270. Each question was answered, AHC leaders reaffirmed their commitment to continued community engagement and care access, and the meeting ended because there were no more questions.