

Trauma Center Designation and COVID-19

5/15/2020

On March 12, 2020, Governor Ralph Northam declared a [state of emergency](#) in the Commonwealth of Virginia in response to the continued spread of the novel Coronavirus Disease known as COVID-19. The White House also declared COVID-19 a [national emergency](#).

Pursuant to these emergency declarations, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and at the direction of State Health Commissioner Dr. M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA, the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) is suspending all triennial trauma center verification visits scheduled to take place during 2020 (provisional trauma centers are excluded from the one-year extension.)

The following trauma centers, whose designation expires in 2020, will receive an automatic one-year extension of its designation. This extension will be effective until a verification site review can be rescheduled and conducted.

- Inova Loudon Hospital (Level III)
- Johnston Willis Hospital (Level III)
- Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters (Level I Pediatric)
- Lynchburg General Hospital (Level II)
- Mary Washington Hospital (Level II)
- Virginia Beach General Hospital (Level III)
- University of Virginia (Level I)

Factors considered in making the decision to suspend designation reviews were numerous. Most importantly, we considered the safety of our site review teams, which include team members that are physicians, nurses and administrators with increased workloads in their primary jobs. Additionally, OEMS considered the designation process, which creates a strain on hospital trauma personnel during normal times, and especially more so during a pandemic.

OEMS is grateful for the diligence, care and compassion of the hospitals and personnel on the frontlines dealing with the COVID-19 emergency. We will continue to provide updates on this situation as they become available.