



March 26, 2020

M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA  
State Health Commissioner  
Virginia Department of Health  
109 Governor Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[norm.oliver@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:norm.oliver@vdh.virginia.gov)

Erik Bodin, Director  
Division of Certificate of Public Need  
Virginia Department of Health  
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 401  
Richmond, Virginia 23233  
[erik.bodin@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:erik.bodin@vdh.virginia.gov)

Re: Community Memorial Hospital's request to increase authorized bed capacity pursuant to Executive Order 52

Dear Dr. Oliver and Mr. Bodin:

Pursuant to Governor Northam's Executive Order 52 and subsequent guidance provided by Dr. Oliver, State Health Commissioner, Community Memorial Hospital ("CMH") requests authorization to expand licensed bed capacity by 130 beds as set forth below to meet the anticipated surge in inpatient need for services resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic emergency. CMH presently anticipates that the need for beds may greatly exceed CMH's licensed capacity and requests the Commissioner's approval to add beds as requested below.

The requested additional bed capacity will be added to CMH's existing acute inpatient hospital license (#H-1847, 1755 North Mecklenburg Avenue, South Hill, Virginia). The additional beds will be located as follows:

- **Addition of 130 Beds at the Former Community Memorial Hospital Facility**
  - CMH is prepared to add up to 130 additional beds in its former hospital facility, located at 125 Buena Vista Circle, South Hill, Virginia. CMH currently projects that up to 120 beds will be operated as medical/surgical, and up to 10 will be operated as ICUs. The additional licensed beds will be used to supplement CMH's existing bed capacity in the event of a surge related to COVID-19 patients.
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○ The former hospital facility was abandoned in November 2017 with the opening of CMH's replacement hospital. The facility has continued to be maintained and there are no known Life Safety Code issues in the areas that would serve inpatients.

○ CMH is actively planning to meet the staffing needs for the requested beds. CMH, like hospitals across the country, has significantly reduced operating room cases, elective ambulatory procedures, and clinic services to preserve personal protective equipment and meet the social distancing safeguards required to best contain the spread of COVID-19. As a result, CMH is planning to re-deploy significant ambulatory and perioperative services personnel to support the requested additional beds to meet surge capacity and patient demands. In addition, CMH may draw on support from community providers and clinicians in and around South Hill.

○ CMH is committed to serving its community and meeting the needs of patients in South Hill and nearby communities. I respectfully request the Commissioner grant the additional licensed bed capacity as requested above. Please contact me with any questions regarding this request at (434) 584-2499 or [Scott.Burnette@VCUHealth.org](mailto:Scott.Burnette@VCUHealth.org).

Very truly yours,



W. Scott Burnette  
CEO, Community Memorial Hospital

cc: Piero Mannino, Supervisor, Virginia Division of Certificate of Public Need *(via email)*