March 27, 2020

Erik Bodin, Director
Division of Certificate of Public Need
Virginia Department of Health
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 401
Richmond, Virginia 23233
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Re: **Request for authorization to add 84 beds at University Hospital,
University of Virginia Medical Center, Charlottesville, Virginia,
PD10 under the authority of EO52**

Dear Mr. Bodin:

Pursuant to Executive Order 52, and the sudden recognized need to increase bed capacity within the Commonwealth by "marshalling all resources and appropriate preparedness, response, and recovery measures to respond to the emergency," the University of Virginia Medical Center (UVAMC) hereby seeks authorization from the State Health Commissioner under EO52 to add 84 med/surg beds in University Hospital. UVAMC has previously notified DCOPN *via* correspondence dated March 22, 2020 (attached) of its intention to seek this authorization and had included certain information which we believed would be relevant to the Commissioner's review. On March 24, 2020, the State Health Commissioner provided additional guidance on the content of requests submitted in response to EO 52. This letter contains the additional information requested by the Commissioner to facilitate the review of our request:

- **The name and address of the specific facility requesting the additional beds**:

  RESPONSE: University Hospital, University of Virginia Medical Center (UVAMC), 1221 Lee Street, Charlottesville, Virginia 22908.

- **How many additional licensed beds are requested**:

  RESPONSE: We are requesting 84 additional med/surg beds. These bed will be acuity adaptable and will readily function as ICU beds based on patient needs. As DCOPN is aware, UVAMC is a state agency and our beds are not licensed, but are COPN approved.

- **The breakdown of requested beds by type (e.g., med/surg, ICU, long term care, etc.):**

  RESPONSE: All 84 beds are med/surg beds. The beds are acuity adaptable based on the needs of the patients. Therefore, all 84 beds can also function as ICU beds. They will be staffed and equipped accordingly (see discussion below).

- **Specifically where the additional licensed beds will be located and if the proposed space currently meets life safe code requirements for the type of patients or residents expected to occupy the space; and if not, what will be done to meet life safety codes requirements for the space:**

  RESPONSE These beds will be located on Floors 3, 4 and 5 of the newly constructed bed tower ("Bed Tower") previously registered with DCOPN as a capital expenditure in August of 2015 (the "Registration").   As described in the Registration, there are six floors in the Bed Tower. Floors 3, 4 and 5 have been built out and each of these floors will have 28 rooms. Floors 3, 4 and 5 meet all life safety code requirements, and the Office of the University Building Official of the University of Virginia has approved the space for occupancy. It is expected that 15 beds will be operational by early April of 2020; the remaining beds will be available in May of 2020[1].

- **The planned use of the additional licensed beds (e.g. used to supplement normal operations due to existing bed occupancy by COVD-19 patients, or specifically for COVID-19 patients):**

  RESPONSE: At this time, the planned use of the beds is supplementation of normal operations based on existing occupancy by COVID-19 patients; however, because the beds are located in a structure that can be physically isolated from the rest of the hospital should circumstances require such measures, it is possible that these beds could be used solely for COVID-19 patients. Such operational decisions would be made as volumes of COVID-19 patients' increase.

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[1] We acknowledge that this timeline is slightly different from the timeline we proposed in our letter to the Commissioner and Mr. Bodin dated March 22, 2020, wherein we stated "…[w]e expect that up to 15 of these beds will be operational by early April of 2020; an additional 56 will be operational by mid-May, and the remaining beds will be made available as soon as possible thereafter."   We have since March 22 been able to accelerate our estimates of readiness.

- **The plan for staffing the beds:**

  RESPONSE: UVAMC will have adequate staffing for the 84 beds as they become operational. Our top priority is always the health and safety of our patients as well as our health care teams, and we also recognize the need to preserve resources and to respond to changing conditions. We have been working as quickly as possible to develop the most likely staffing models for the new beds, and we anticipate that much of the need will be met by existing staff re-deployed from current assignments. This redeployment will be made possible in part by the decision to reschedule elective cases that can be postponed without risk to the patient effective March 16, 2020, as well as postponement and re-scheduling of outpatient clinic appointments and non-urgent outpatient procedural and imaging appointments. In this regard, we are in compliance with Commonwealth of Virginia Order of Public Health Emergency Two, issued March 25, 2020.

  UVAMC expects that with the postponement of elective procedures and the decrease in outpatient visits, there will be additional staff (physicians, nurses, support personnel) available to provide inpatient services. These individuals will be assigned to staff the new beds as appropriate to their skills and the needs of the patients; staff will also be retrained as necessary.

  UVAMC also has adequate medical supplies and personal protective equipment to safely operate these beds, and all other beds in University Hospital, even with the anticipated drain on resources caused by the COVID-19 emergency. We have stocked levels of PPE supplies that are significantly greater than we usually keep on hand. We continue to review and update our standard work based on CDC guidelines and our current COVID-19 status.

  UVAMC knows of no alternatives to this request. Like all hospitals and health systems across the country, we are doing everything possible to anticipate and provide for the patients we know will require acute and intensive care at our facilities. UVAMC is one of two safety net state hospitals in the Commonwealth. Despite the anticipated high volumes of critically ill COVID-19 patients and the extensive preparations for their influx, UVAMC must continue to operate as a tertiary/quaternary hospital for patients who are COVID-free but have complex or emergent medical condition that require hospitalization. Part of our preparations for COVID-19 has led to the development by UVAMC of a test for the virus that is being administered to our patients; we are the first medical center in Virginia to have developed an in-house COVID-19 test. Further, UVAMC has offered to perform testing for other Virginia hospitals for their inpatients, health care workers, and first responders who present at those hospitals with high suspicion for COVID-19. UVAMC has partnered with VDH in pandemic planning, identifying clinical best practices, and coordinating necessary supplies, equipment, and other resources.

UVAMC, as an academic medical center, is in a unique position to help the citizens of the Commonwealth weather this crisis by making available an additional 84 beds built and staffed to provide both acute and intensive care with a level of skill and expertise that only academic medicine can offer.

Thank you for consideration of this request. Please let me know if further information is required.

Very truly yours,

Chris A. Ghaemmaghami, M.D.
Interim Chief Executive Officer
UVA Medical Center

Att

UVAHealth

March 22, 2020

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

Erik Bodin, Director
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Re: Request pursuant to Executive Order 52 seeking authorization to add 84
         beds at University Hospital, University of Virginia Medical Center,
         Charlottesville, Virginia, PD10

Dear Dr. Oliver and Mr. Bodin:

Pursuant to Executive Order 52, and the sudden recognized need to increase bed
capacity within the Commonwealth by "marshalling all resources and appropriate
preparedness, response, and recovery measures to respond to the emergency," the
University of Virginia Medical Center hereby seeks authorization from the State Health
Commissioner under Executive Order 52 to add 84 acuity-adaptable beds in University
Hospital. These beds will be located in the newly constructed bed tower previously
registered as a capital expenditure in August of 2015. We expect that up to 15 of these
beds will be operational by early April of 2020; an additional 56 will be operational by
mid-May, and the remaining beds will be made available as soon as possible thereafter.

Please let me know if further information would be helpful. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Chris A. Ghaemmaghami, M.D.
Interim Chief Executive Officer