

March 26, 2020

VIA HAND DELIVERY AND EMAIL

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

VIA EMAIL ONLY

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: VCU Health System Authority'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, VCU Health System Authority's VCU Medical Center ("VCUHS") requests authorization to expand licensed bed capacity by 330 beds as set forth below to meet the anticipated surge in need for acute inpatient services resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic emergency. VCUHS has devoted significant resources to quantify the potential impact of COVID-19. Acknowledging VCUHS' current average inpatient census and need for beds notwithstanding the current pandemic, VCUHS presently anticipates the need for inpatient beds may greatly exceed current licensed capacity. VCUHS is actively working to operationalize additional patient care beds as reflected in this letter and respectfully requests the Commissioner's approval.

The requested additional bed capacity will be added to VCU Medical Center's acute inpatient hospital license (#H-1875, 1250 East Marshall Street, Richmond, Virginia, 23298 in Planning District 15). The additional beds will be located as follows:

- **Addition of 150 Beds at VCU Medical Center, MCV Campus**

VCUHS is prepared to increase surge capacity on MCV Campus by adding 150 beds. Based on our role as the region's quaternary and tertiary referral center, VCUHS currently projects a need for 150 or more additional ICU beds and therefore requires the

flexibility to designate beds as either medical/surgical or ICU as necessary to meet the needs of our inpatient census. These beds would be added throughout MCV Campus in Main Hospital (1250 East Marshall Street), the Gateway Building (1200 East Marshall Street), North Hospital (1300 East Marshall Street), Critical Care Hospital (1213 East Clay Street), and other locations within MCV Campus. VCUHS would use the beds for patients with varying health conditions depending on the location on MCV Campus and depending on current needs of our inpatient census. By way of example, certain private rooms may become semi-private; ICU capacity may be added through conversion of existing medical/surgical beds in Critical Care Hospital to acuity-adaptable rooms capable of flexing between medical/surgical and ICU needs. There are no known Life Safety Code issues in the areas that would serve inpatients.

- **Addition of 180 Beds at VCU Honors College**

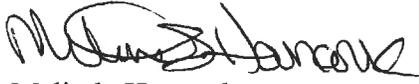
Virginia Commonwealth University (“VCU”) Honors College is a student dormitory located at 701 West Grace Street in Richmond, Virginia. The building is an ideal location to add inpatient beds because (1) it is currently vacant due to VCU’s suspension of in-person classes and on-campus housing; and (2) it was previously operated as a Joint-Commission accredited inpatient hospital. VCUHS intends to add roughly 35 private, medical/surgical inpatient rooms per floor, each having a private bathroom. VCUHS anticipates using the facility to house low-acuity patients.

VCUHS has operationalized a team to prepare this facility with the expectation that two floors (70 beds) could be prepared to house inpatients by Friday, April 3, 2020 with the remaining 110 beds brought online in the following weeks. All patient rooms have sprinklers and active smoke detectors. The building has an active emergency power generator. Additional work is currently underway to prepare the building, including load-in of patient room furniture and medical equipment, and addition of EMR capability.

VCUHS is actively planning to meet the staffing needs for the requested beds. VCUHS, like health systems 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, VCUHS 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, a rapid, virtual on-boarding process has been put in place should we need to bring on additional personnel to meet staffing needs.

VCUHS is steadfast in its commitment to meet the healthcare needs of patients throughout this pandemic. We respectfully request the Commissioner grant the additional licensed bed capacity as requested above. If you require any additional information in processing this request, please contact us at the phone or emails addresses in the below signature blocks.

Very truly yours,



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