

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**Office of Licensure and Certification**  
**Staff Analysis**

April 16, 2020

Maryview Hospital d/b/a Maryview Medical Center (4/10/2020)  
Portsmouth, Virginia  
Temporarily add 63 Beds at Maryview Medical Center

**Hospital**

Maryview Hospital d/b/a Maryview Medical Center (MMC) is located in Portsmouth, Virginia, which is in Health Planning Region (HPR) V, Planning District (PD) 20.

**Background**

On March 12, 2020, Governor Ralph Northam declared a state of emergency throughout Virginia in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Subsequent to this declared state of emergency, on March 20, 2020, Governor Northam signed Executive Order 52 (EO 52) providing that notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1.1 of Chapter 4 of Title 32.1 of the Code of Virginia the State Health Commissioner (Commissioner), at his discretion, may authorize any general hospital or nursing home to increase licensed bed capacity as determined necessary by the Commissioner to respond to increased demand for beds resulting from COVID-19. Such beds authorized by the Commissioner under EO 52 would, notwithstanding Virginia Code § 32.1-132, constitute licensed beds that do not require further approval or the issuance of a new license.

According to the 2018 data provided by Virginia Health Information (VHI), MMC operates an inventory of 346 licensed beds (**Table 1**). MMC is taking all reasonable efforts to comply with the March 25, 2020 Order of Public Health Emergency 2, including curtailing all non-essential inpatient and outpatient surgeries

**Request**

MMC cites an emergent need to expand bed capacity due to an influx of patients and increased bed utilization resulting from COVID-19 infection. MMC requests authorization to temporarily add 63 beds, including 49 intensive care unit (ICU) beds and 14 medical/surgical beds. The requested beds would be added on the MMC campus located at 3636 High Street, Portsmouth, Virginia. The resulting bed configuration at MMC is shown in **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Maryview Medical Center Requested Temporary Bed Inventory**

<b>Bed Type</b>	<b>Existing Beds</b>	<b>Requested Additional Beds</b>	<b>Resulting Available Beds</b>
Medical/Surgical	227	14	241
ICU	26	49	75
Medical Rehabilitation	25	0	25
Psychiatric	54	0	54
Obstetric	14	0	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>409</b>

**Considerations**

In determining whether a need exists for the requested additional bed capacity, the State Health Commissioner established the following factors for consideration, when applicable.

**1. Ongoing efforts to increase the availability of existing beds, such as suspension of elective procedures:**

MMC has made assurances that, in an effort to free up existing capacity, and in compliance with the March 25 2020 Order of Public Health Emergency 2, it has taken a number of steps to increase the availability of existing beds, including curtailing all non-essential inpatient and outpatient surgery effective March 23, 2020.

**2. The availability of professional and ancillary staff to provide care in the additional beds:**

Staff members who used to perform at MMC and are temporarily displaced by the curtailing of all non-essential and elective surgery will be used to staff the additional intensive care beds. Additionally, MMC is redeploying and cross-training additional clinical staff from other elective and outpatient areas to provide patients safe and effective care in the temporary beds.

**3. The availability of medical supplies and personal protection equipment in the facility:**

As part of the Bon Secours Mercy Health System, MMC works with sister facilities in Hampton Roads, Richmond and nationwide for access to all necessary medical supplies and personal protection equipment (PPE). Currently, MMC is adequately supplied with all necessary medical supplies and PPE. Additionally, MMC has started the reprocessing of N95 masks to ensure it has adequate PPE through the duration of the pandemic.

**4. The specific plan for increasing bed capacity:**

MMC will add the requested beds on its campus located at 3636 High Street, Portsmouth, Virginia. The beds will be created as follows:

1. Five ICU beds by converting the infusion center space;
2. Seven ICU beds by converting the former nursery area, which is currently vacant;
3. 11 ICU beds by converting the Pre-Op area;
4. 12 ICU by converting the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU);
5. 14 ICU beds by converting the cardiac catheterization holding area; and
6. 14 medical/surgical beds by converting the former Labor & Delivery area, which is currently vacant

MMC asserts that the additional beds will be used to supplement normal operations to serve the anticipated needs of patients expected during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**5. Where the beds will be located and the life safety code considerations of the location:**

MMC asserts that the new beds will be equipped all necessary life safety code requirements, such as oxygen, medical gases and vacuum capabilities.

**6. The availability of beds at other community hospitals and nursing homes in the community:**

Per the 2018 data provided by VHI, there are 2,850 licensed inpatient beds in PD 20, of which 343 are intensive care unit beds and 1,932 are medical/surgical beds. The overall bed capacity data does not inherently take into account the extent to which, due to the rapid rate of infection of COVID-19, how many new cases may arise, and thereby overwhelm MMC's and the area's capacity to treat patients, thereby jeopardizing the quality of care for residents of PD 20. MMC's proposal increases its bed capacity by 18% and increases PD 20's bed capacity by 2%.

**7. Other alternatives to adding bed capacity:**

As previously discussed, given that MMC has already provided assurances that it has suspended all of elective procedures, and the anticipated bed capacity shortages at other facilities in PD 20, as well as the difficulty in anticipating how many cases of COVID-19 may arise in PD 20, there are no alternatives to the requested temporary addition of bed capacity.

**8. The current state of COVID-19 in the community:**

At the time of this writing, the Virginia Department of Health reports that Virginia has 6,889 cases of COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus, and 208 deaths.<sup>1</sup> To date, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed 605,390 cases in the United States, with

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>

24,582 deaths.<sup>2</sup> At the time of this writing, there were 62 cases of COVID-19 positive patients in the Portsmouth Health District with another 143 patients in the surrounding jurisdiction.

### **Findings and Conclusions**

MMC proposes to temporarily add 63 beds, including 49 ICU beds and 14 medical/surgical beds. The Division of Certificate of Public Need (DCOPN) finds that, due to the sudden and overwhelming increase in acute care cases resulting from COVID-19 infection throughout the Commonwealth, that MMC has an immediate need to temporarily add 63 beds. MMC has demonstrated that the rapid rise in COVID-19 cases has created an emergent need for a temporary increase in bed capacity. In the absence of a temporary increase to bed capacity in the planning district, it is conceivable that the continued rise of COVID-19 cases could overwhelm the hospital's capacity to treat patients, thereby jeopardizing the quality of care for residents of PD 20, and limit the ability of health care providers adequately treat and limit the spread of the virus.

### **Staff Recommendations**

The Division of Certificate of Public Need recommends the **approval** of Maryview Hospital d/b/a Maryview Medical Center's request to temporarily add 63 licensed beds on its campus. This staff recommendation is based on the following findings.

1. Maryview Medical Center has demonstrated that, due to the reasonable expectation of a sudden and overwhelming increase in acute care patients resulting from COVID-19 infection, Maryview Medical Center has an immediate need to temporarily add 63 beds, including 49 ICU beds and 14 medical/surgical beds.
2. Maryview Medical Center's plan for training and shifting available staff is a reasonable solution for staffing the additional beds.
3. Maryview Medical Center's plan and ability to obtain equipment and supplies is reasonable within the confines of the current crisis.
4. Maryview Medical Center's plan to expand bed capacity in existing hospital space assures patient safety is maintained from a fire and life safety code perspective.

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcases-in-us.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcases-in-us.html)