



Bon Secours Memorial Regional Medical Center

April 3, 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*
Division of Certificate of Public Need
Virginia Department of Health
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 401
Richmond, Virginia 23233
erik.bodin@vdh.virginia.gov

Re: **Request pursuant to Executive Order 52 seeking authorization to add 26 beds
At Bon Secours Memorial Regional Medical Center, Mechanicsville, Virginia (Planning District 15)**

Dear Dr. Oliver and Mr. Bodin:

Pursuant to Executive Order 52 issued by Governor Ralph Northam on March 20, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, Bon Secours Memorial Regional Medical Center (“Memorial Regional”) requests the Commissioner’s authorization to operate 26 temporary additional beds to supplement normal operations to serve the anticipated needs of patients expected during the COVID-19 pandemic emergency.

Here are the details for our request.

<u>Hospital Name:</u>	Bon Secours Memorial Regional Medical Center, LLC 8260 Atlee Rd. Mechanicsville, VA 23116
<u>Hospital License:</u>	H – 1831
<u>Current Approved Capacity:</u>	225 beds
<u>Requested Additional Capacity:</u>	26 beds: 20 intensive care beds and 6 med/surg beds Total of 251 beds operational

In accordance with CDC and CMS guidance and Governor Northam’s request, Memorial Regional curtailed all non-essential inpatient and outpatient surgery effective March 23, 2020. As a result, hospital space is available for immediate alternate use in response to the novel coronavirus threat. The additional beds would supplement normal operations.

All predictive analytics models used nationwide show that Virginia and the Richmond area are expected to see a significant increase in hospitalizations related to COVID-19, and especially the utilization of intensive care beds and the significantly longer lengths of stay associated with those episodes of care. As a result, Memorial Regional is preparing for this eventuality and redeploying its capacity.

Specifically, the details of our request, and the space for the new beds, are described below.

Intensive Care Beds

Memorial Regional already has made plans to reclassify 30 of its medical/surgical beds to intensive care status. The beds are located on the second floor of the hospital, in current inpatient medical/surgical units. The inpatient beds were historically used to house many short-stay post-surgical patients such as joint replacement patients, general surgery patients, etc. who are no longer being treated in those beds due to curtailing of non-emergent and elective inpatient surgical procedures. As existing inpatient medical/surgical patient rooms, the new ICU beds are equipped with all necessary life safety code requirements such as oxygen, medical gases and vacuum capabilities.

This temporary reclassification of beds from medical/surgical to intensive care does not add to the licensed inventory at Memorial Regional. However, we do anticipate the average length of stay of patients in those ICU beds to be significantly longer than the historical length of stay of patients in those beds, Memorial Regional is preparing for this eventuality by shifting the intensity of care.

As a result, Memorial Regional would also like to request the addition of 20 intensive care beds to the license. Memorial Regional operates a 5-room ambulatory surgery unit ("ASU") with all necessary support space for pre- and post-operative services as well as a post anesthesia care unit ("PACU"). The ASU is located in a distinct part of the hospital from the main surgery suite. Since there is currently very limited surgical caseload being performed in the ASU, it is available to convert to this temporary use. The PACU and pre/post operative bays in the ASU can be converted into 20 private inpatient intensive care beds. These temporary beds are all equipped with oxygen, medical gases and vacuum capabilities, and are monitored.

Staff temporarily displaced by the curtailing of non-essential and elective surgery that used to be performed at Memorial Regional and used to spend their inpatient stay in the now vacant inpatient beds, will be used to staff the additional intensive care beds and provide care in a safe and effective environment of care.

Medical/Surgical Beds

In addition, Memorial Regional would like to request the addition of 6 medical/surgical beds. The new inpatient rooms would result from the conversion of the 6-bed dialysis suite. Patient needing dialysis will receive it in their room instead of being transported to the suite.

Availability of Medical Supplies and Personal Protective Equipment ("PPE")

As part of Bon Secours Mercy Health, Memorial Regional works with sister facilities in Richmond, Hampton Roads, and nationwide for access to all necessary medical supplies and PPE. Currently, the hospital is well supplied with all necessary medical supplies and PPE. In addition, we have started the reprocessing of N95 masks to ensure we have adequate PPE throughout the duration of our COVID-19 response.

Memorial Regional stands ready to activate this conversion effective the week of April 5. Please let me know if you need any additional information to evaluate our request.

Sincerely,



Leigh Sewell
President

CC: Yousuf Faraaz – Market President, Bon Secours Richmond
Alexander Brown – Associate General Counsel, Bon Secours Mercy Health
Elizabeth Breen – Counsel, Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP