



Bon Secours St. Francis Medical Center

April 1, 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 39 beds
At Bon Secours St. Francis Medical Center, Midlothian, 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 St. Francis Medical Center (“St. Francis”) requests the Commissioner’s authorization to operate 39 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 St. Francis Medical Center, LLC 13710 St. Francis Blvd. Midlothian, VA 23114
<u>Hospital License:</u>	H – 1924
<u>Current Approved Capacity:</u>	130 beds <i>(please note: St. Francis was approved for 55 additional beds pursuant to COPN VA-04682 to be located in two floors not yet under construction – the beds are not operational)</i>
<u>Requested Additional Capacity:</u>	39 bed – 12 medical/surgical beds and 27 intensive care beds Total of 169 beds operational

In accordance with CDC and CMS guidance and Governor Northam’s request, St. Francis curtailed all non-essential surgery effective March 23, 2020. As a result, hospital space is available for immediate 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 St. Francis is preparing for this eventuality.

Specifically, the details of our request and the space the new beds will occupy is presented on the next page.

Intensive Care Beds

The St. Francis Ambulatory Surgery Unit (“ASU”), located on the second floor of a connected medical office building to St. Francis, currently houses 4 licensed general purpose operating rooms and all necessary support space for pre- and post-operative services as well as a post anesthesia care unit (“PACU”). There is currently no surgical caseload being performed in the ASU and therefore the ASU is available to convert to this temporary use. The PACU can be converted into 9 private inpatient intensive care beds and the preoperative area can be converted into 14 private inpatient intensive care beds. In addition, each of 4 operating rooms can be converted into 4 private inpatient intensive care beds. These temporary beds are all equipped with oxygen, medical gases and vacuum capabilities, and are monitored. This would allow St. Francis to add 27 intensive care beds.

Staff temporarily displaced by the curtailing of non-essential surgery that used to be performed in the ASU will be used to staff the additional intensive care beds and provide care in a safe and effective environment of care. In addition, St. Francis is also working with its anesthesia providers, hospitalist group, and intensivist/pulmonary specialists to ensure the necessary physicians professional coverage for these temporary beds.

Medical/Surgical Beds

St. Francis also operates a 7-room surgical suite on the second floor of the hospital. St. Francis proposes to convert some of its preoperative procedure area not in use due to essential surgery curtailing to allow the creation of 12 private inpatient medical/surgical beds. These temporary beds are also equipped with oxygen, medical gases and vacuum capabilities, and are monitored. But the size of the rooms would prevent them from being used as intensive care beds since ventilator equipment could not be placed in those rooms.

Staff temporarily displaced by the curtailing of non-essential surgery that used to be performed in the main surgical suite will be used to staff the additional medical/surgical beds and provide care in a safe and effective environment of care.

Availability of Medical Supplies and Personal Protective Equipment (“PPE”)

As part of Bon Secours Mercy Health, St. Francis 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 and we have rolled out re-processing process for N-95 masks.

St. Francis stands ready to activate this conversion effective the week of April 5, 2020. Please let me know if you need any additional information to evaluate our request.

Sincerely,



Chris Accashian
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