



Bon Secours St. Francis Medical Center

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

Re: Second Request pursuant to Executive Order 52 seeking authorization to add 33 more beds to the 39 already authorized 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”) is thankful to the State Health Commissioner and DCOPN for the authorization, issued earlier this week on April 13, 2020, to operate 39 temporary additional beds.

However, in light of the fact that plans for an Alternate Care Facility (“ACF”) to serve the needs of the greater Richmond population are unlikely to materialize within the timeframe predicted for peak patient volumes, St. Francis had to go back and evaluate additional locations for beds that may be required to meet the surge needs of COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients at our facility. As a result, St. Francis is again seeking authorization from State Health Commissioner to operate another 33 temporary additional beds to provide surge capacity and supplement 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 39 additional temporary beds authorized on April 13, 2020 |
| <u>Requested Additional Capacity:</u> | 33 intensive care beds Total of 202 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. 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, longer lengths of stays and increased acuity of hospitalized patients and thus St. Francis is preparing for a higher level of need that will now not be met through an ACF.

Intensive Care Beds

The 33 new intensive care beds would be located in existing emergency room bays at the two emergency locations operated by St. Francis:

- the main emergency department on the St. Francis campus would convert its bays into 17 ICU beds
- the Westchester Emergency Center, located a few miles away in Midlothian, would convert its bays into 16 ICU beds and would temporarily cease operating as a freestanding emergency department.

Should we need to repurpose the ED bays to ICU beds to meet the emergency needs of patient on the hospital campus, St. Francis would set up ER operations in the adjacent mammography department, supplemented, as needed, by a large medical tent in the parking lot.

Please note that the different options will be phased in, as needed. If any site of care should change its scope of service (e.g. a freestanding emergency department no longer accepting walk-in or ambulance-transported patients), St. Francis would communicate this change directly and publicly with all impacted groups – EMS, first responders, patients, and community at large.

Staff in the emergency departments will be used for the additional ICU beds and provide care in a safe and effective environment of care. St. Francis and Bon Secours are also planning to use other clinical staff redeployed from outpatient locations in the community which have either temporarily closed or where operations have been severely curtailed. Cross training programs have been developed and staff is already being trained and oriented to potential new roles. Finally, St. Francis and Bon Secours will endeavor to work with members of the Virginia Medical Reserve Corps, if ultimately necessary dependent on the response demanded by a potential surge of COVID-19 positive patients

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 adequately supplied with 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 27, 2020. Please let me know if you need any additional information to evaluate our second 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