

April 7, 2020

VIA EMAIL: Norm.Oliver@vdh.virginia.gov

M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA
State Health Commissioner
109 Governor Street
Richmond, VA 23219

VIA EMAIL: COPN@vdh.virginia.gov

Erik Bodin, Director
Division of Certificate of Public Need
Virginia Department of Health
9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 401
Richmond, Virginia 23233

**Re: Chesapeake Regional Medical Center
Request for Authorization to Add 123 Beds Pursuant to Executive Order 52**

Dear Dr. Oliver and Mr. Bodin,

Pursuant to Governor Northam's March 20, 2020 Executive Order 52 and the recent communication issued by the State Health Commissioner on March 24, 2020, Chesapeake Regional Medical Center ("CRMC") respectfully requests authorization under to add 123 licensed beds to help meet the anticipated increased demand for hospital beds resulting from COVID-19. These additional beds will help meet an anticipated shortage and allow CRMC to continue to serve its patients during this public health emergency. Below please find responses to the additional information requested by the Commissioner in order to facilitate the review of this request.

1. The name and address of the specific facility requesting the additional beds;

Chesapeake Regional Medical Center ("CRMC") is located at 736 Battlefield Boulevard, North, Chesapeake, Virginia 23320. The Jennings Outpatient Center is located on the CRMC campus and adjacent to the hospital at 844 N. Battlefield Boulevard.

2. How many additional licensed beds are requested;

CRMC is requesting the temporary addition of 123 licensed beds to its existing complement of 310 beds, for a total of 433 beds.

3. The breakdown of requested beds by type (e.g., med/surg, ICU, long term care, etc.);

All 123 beds are medical/surgical, and many are ICU capable. A full breakdown is provided below.

4. Specifically where the additional licensed beds will be located and if the proposed space currently meets life safety code requirements for the type of patients or residents expected to occupy the space, and if not, what will be done to meet life safety code requirements for the space;

All of the additional beds will be located within the existing hospital and the Jennings Outpatient Center on the CRMC campus. Following is a breakdown of the proposed locations of the additional beds:

- 21 unmonitored Med/Surg beds in the Surgical Assessment Unit on the Second Floor
- 31 monitored Adult ICU beds in the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit on the Second Floor
- 3 monitored Med/Surg beds in the Stepdown Unit on the Third Floor
- 9 monitored Adult ICU beds in the Cath Holding Unit on the First Floor
- 6 beds, 5 of which have monitoring capabilities in the Radiology Holding Unit on the First Floor
- 3 Med/Surg beds in converted space that is presently a gym located on the Second Floor
- 30 Med/Surg beds in converted space in the Physical Therapy Department on the First Floor
- 20 Med/Surg beds in converted space in the Jennings Outpatient Center

Both the hospital and Jennings Outpatient Center meet current life safety code requirements for existing I-2 Institutional occupancy. The buildings incorporate appropriate smoke compartmentalization, are fully sprinklered, and have 24/7 monitored central fire alarm systems. Please refer to the enclosed floor plans for additional detail on the proposed bed locations.

5. The planned use of the additional licensed beds (e.g., used to supplement normal operations due to existing bed occupancy by COVID-19 patients, or specifically for COVID-19 patients); and

The beds will be utilized as needed to care for COVID-19 patients directly or to supplement existing operations when existing beds need to be used for COVID-19 patients, as assessed on an ongoing basis.

6. The plan for staffing the beds.

CRMC has already temporarily postponed surgical cases when possible. By rescheduling elective procedures and non-urgent procedures, CRMC will cross-train and redeploy staff from elective areas and surgical services within the hospital and from outpatient locations to support COVID-19 patients or existing operations. Some staff to be cross-trained include CRNAs and RNs presently working in primarily administrative roles, such as care managers, educators, finance, and those involved in quality measures. CRMC will also utilize staffing from our resource pool, has extended current agency nursing contracts, and has requested additional contract.

As an independent community hospital, CRMC has historically endeavored to expand its services and respond to community needs. During this public health emergency, CRMC is confident it has the resources and ability to staff these additional beds in order to provide more patients with necessary care and treatment. I respectfully request that the Commissioner grant the additional licensed bed capacity so that CRMC can continue to treat patients while addressing the increased patient demand caused by COVID-19.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or required any additional information, please contact Virginia Slocum, Strategic Operations Planning Manager, at (757) 374-0258 or virginia.slocum@chesapeakeregional.com.

Sincerely,



Reese Jackson, J.D., M.H.A.
President and CEO
Chesapeake Regional Healthcare

cc: Piero Mannino, Supervisor, DCOPN