Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia

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March 31, 2020

Erik Bodin, Director, DCOPN

Office of Licensure and Certification

Virginia Department of Health

9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 401

Richmond, VA 23233-1463

Dear Mr. Bodin:

The Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia (HSANV) staff has reviewed the March 30, 2020 request from Inova Health Care Services (Inova) to expand its licensed hospital bed capacity as anticipated and permitted by Governor Northam’s Executive Order 52, issued on March 20, 2020.

Inova Health Care Services (Inova), the operating arm of Inova Health System, owns and operates five acute care community hospitals in Northern Virginia (PD 8). These hospitals are distributed widely in the region, Inova Fairfax Hospital in central Fairfax County, Inova Fair Oaks Hospital in western Fairfax County, Inova Mount Vernon Hospital in southeastern Fairfax County, Inova Alexandria Hospital in the City of Alexandria, and Inova Loudoun Hospital in central and western Loudoun County. These facilities serve a majority of those hospitalized locally each year.

In 2018, Inova hospitals were licensed to operate 1,827 acute care beds, 1,058 of which were adult medical-surgical beds and 207 were intensive care (ICU) beds. Inova proposes to add a total of 279 beds, 94 intensive care beds and 185 adult medical-surgical beds, under the provisions of Executive Order 52.[[1]](#footnote-1) The proposed net increase in Inova medical-surgical and intensive care beds is about 22%.

Inova’s request appears thought out and prudential. Among other considerations, the initiatives described:

* Respond directly to the intent and provisions of Executive Order 52. The request is for expanded inpatient bed capacity, adult medical surgical beds and intensive care beds.

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* Cover all Inova community hospitals, taking advantage of space and capabilities in each facility that can be returned to service or converted to special use quickly.
* Contemplate economically rational changes, converting post-anesthesia care units to temporary intensive care units, recapturing medical-surgical bed space recently vacated during campus renovation and modernization projects, and accelerating the deployment of inpatient capacity under development as part of authorized capital expenditures.
* Represent a critical inpatient element of the broader, more comprehensive Inova response to community concerns and local medical care needs arising from the unfolding COVID-19 epidemic.

Based on these considerations, and on the recognition that the beds requested are likely to be needed soon, HSANV recommends that the Inova request for the capacity and licensing changes proposed be granted.

If we can provide additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Dean Montgomery

Executive Director

cc: Neil Rolfes, Vice President, Inova Health System

 Paul Dryer, Director, Strategic Planning, Inova Health System

 Piero Mannino, Supervisor, DCOPN, VDH

 Robert Pugh, Chairperson, HSANV

1. We note that there are clerical errors in the licensed bed columns of the tables presented for Inova Loudoun Hospital (ILH) and Inova Mount Vernon Hospital (IMVH). It appears that the licensed medical-surgical and intensive care bed counts of Inova Fairfax Hospital were inadvertently entered for ILH and IMVH. These errors do not affect in any meaningful way the inherent merit of the changes proposed at Inova Loudoun Hospital and Inova Mount Vernon Hospital. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)