Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia

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April 22, 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:

Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia (HSANV) staff has reviewed the April 22, 2020 request from Sentara Healthcare (SHC) to increase temporarily the licensed hospital bed complement of Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Care (SNVMC) as permitted by, and in accordance with, Executive Order 52.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center, a subsidiary of Sentara Healthcare, one of Virginia’s larger health care systems, is a major provider of medical care in Prince William County, Virginia. Located in Woodbridge, Virginia, the hospital’s primary service area is eastern Prince William County. In recent years, SNVMC has served about 7% of those hospitalized in Northern Virginia acute care community hospitals.

Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center is licensed to operate 183 acute care beds, 131 of which are designated as adult medical-surgical beds and 16 as intensive care (ICU) beds.[[2]](#footnote-2) SNVMC proposes to add 9 adult medical surgical beds and 20 intensive care beds under the provisions of Executive Order 52. These increases would be offset partially by a 17-bed reduction in the hospital’s obstetrics bed complement. The proposed net gain in the licensed complement, 12 beds, represents an increase of about 7%.

Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center’s request is responsive to the purpose and specifications of Executive Order 52. Among other considerations, the capacity changes proposed by SNVMC:

* Comply with the objectives and provisions of Executive Order 52. The request is for temporary increases in the hospital’s adult medical surgical and intensive care bed complements. It contains the information specified in the Commissioner of Health’s March 24, 2020 letter providing guidance to Virginia hospitals seeking temporary bed increases.

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* Describe a practical approach to adding beds as evolving circumstances and local needs may necessitate.
* Take advantage of space and related service capabilities at SNVMC, e.g., conversion of unused obstetrics space and beds to potential intensive care use.
* Represent a practical, reasoned approach to responding to local medical care needs that may arise over the next weeks and months.

In addition to these considerations, temporary capacity increases at SNVMC would supplement pending capacity increases recently authorized at other Northern Virginia (PD 8) acute care hospitals.

Based on these considerations, and on the recognition that much of the temporary capacity requested may be needed soon, HSANV recommends that the Sentara Northern Virginia Medical Center request be granted.

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

Sincerely,



Dean Montgomery

Executive Director

cc: Elizabeth Reilly, Director, CS&P, Sentara Healthcare

Piero Mannino, Supervisor, DCOPN, VDH

Robert Pugh, Chairperson, HSANV

1. Governor Northam issued Executive Order 52 on March 20, 2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. VHC also has an obstetrics service with 36 licensed beds. In recent years the obstetrics service has had relatively modest use, less than 30% occupancy in 2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)