

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Office of Licensure and Certification

Staff Analysis

April 15, 2020

Reston Hospital Center (4/10/2020)

Reston, Virginia

Temporarily add 138 Beds at Reston Hospital Center

Hospital

Reston Hospital Center, LLC (RHC) is located in Reston, Virginia, which is located in Planning District (PD) 8, Health Planning Region (HPR) II.

Background

On March 12, 2020, Governor Ralph Northam declared a state of emergency throughout Virginia in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Subsequent to this declared state of emergency, on March 20, 2020, Governor Northam signed Executive Order 52 (EO 52) providing that notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1.1 of Chapter 4 of Title 32.1 of the Code of Virginia the State Health Commissioner (Commissioner), at his discretion, may authorize any general hospital or nursing home to increase licensed bed capacity as determined necessary by the Commissioner to respond to increased demand for beds resulting from COVID-19. Such beds authorized by the Commissioner under EO 52 would, notwithstanding Virginia Code § 32.1-132, constitute licensed beds that do not require further approval or the issuance of a new license.

According to the 2018 data provided by Virginia Health Information (VHI) and DCOPN records, RHC operates an inventory of 231 licensed beds (**Table 1**). RHC is taking all reasonable efforts to reduce inpatient census to free beds to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, including complying with the March 25, 2020 Order of Public Health Emergency 2.

Request

RHC cites an emergent need to expand bed capacity due to an influx of patients and increased bed utilization resulting from COVID-19 infection. RHC requests authorization to temporarily add 138 beds, including 81 intensive care unit (ICU) beds and 57 medical/surgical beds. The requested beds would be added on the RHC campus located at 1850 Town Center Parkway, Reston, Virginia. The resulting bed configuration at RHC is shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Reston Hospital Center Requested Temporary Bed Inventory

Bed Type	Existing Beds	Requested Additional Beds	Resulting Available Beds
Medical/Surgical	132	57	189
ICU	32	81	113
Medical Rehabilitation	18	0	18
Pediatric	9	0	9
Obstetric	40	0	40
Total	231	138	369

Considerations

In determining whether a need exists for the requested additional bed capacity, the State Health Commissioner established the following factors for consideration, when applicable.

1. Ongoing efforts to increase the availability of existing beds, such as suspension of elective procedures:

RHC has made assurances that, in an effort to free up existing capacity, and in compliance with the March 25 2020 Order of Public Health Emergency 2, it has taken a number of steps to increase the availability of existing beds, including suspension of elective procedures and conversion of telemetry beds to ICU beds.

2. The availability of professional and ancillary staff to provide care in the additional beds:

HCA Virginia hospitals will utilize team members (both locally and across the state) that have been flexed due to low utilization in other portions of the healthcare system and have developed appropriate education to swiftly repurpose team members in needed areas to help support patient care efforts.

3. The availability of medical supplies and personal protection equipment in the facility:

RHC has not made assurances that it has sufficient access to available medical supplies and personal protection equipment (PPE) in the facility. Given that the availability of PPE is a State and National concern, RHC will have access to PPE commensurate with that of other acute care hospitals. The Virginia Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (VDMAC) has suggested moving toward the adoption of crisis standards of care to, in part, preserve available supplies.

4. The specific plan for increasing bed capacity:

RHC will add the requested beds on its campus located at 1850 Town Center Parkway, Reston, Virginia.

The beds will be located as follows:

1. Fifty-five ICU beds in the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) and Pre-Op on the ground floor of the hospital;
2. Two ICU beds in observation rooms on the fourth floor;
3. Twenty-four ICU beds will be created by converting 24 existing private ICU rooms to double occupancy;
4. Forty-eight medical/surgical beds will be created by converting 48 existing private medical/surgical rooms to double occupancy; and
5. Nine medical/surgical beds will be created by converting nine existing private medical/rehabilitation rooms to double occupancy.

RHC asserts that the additional beds will be used to supplement existing operations due to existing bed occupancy by patients with COVID-19.

5. Where the beds will be located and the life safety code considerations of the location:

RHC asserts that the new beds will be equipped with oxygen, medical gases and vacuum capabilities. RHC further asserts that the spaces satisfy applicable life safety code requirements.

6. The availability of beds at other community hospitals and nursing homes in the community:

Per the 2018 data provided by VHI, there are 3,209 licensed inpatient beds in PD 8, of which 300 are adult intensive care unit beds, 26 are pediatric intensive care unit beds and 1,749 are medical/surgical beds. The overall bed capacity data does not inherently take into account the extent to which, due to the rapid rate of infection of COVID-19, how many new cases may arise, and thereby overwhelm RHC's and the area's capacity to treat patients, thereby jeopardizing the quality of care for residents of PD 8. RHC's proposal increases its bed capacity by 60% and increases PD 8's bed capacity by less than 4%.

7. Other alternatives to adding bed capacity:

As previously discussed, given that RHC has already provided assurances that it has suspended all of elective procedures, and the anticipated bed capacity shortages at other facilities in PD 8, as well as the difficulty in anticipating how many cases of COVID-19 may arise in PD 8, there are no alternatives to the requested temporary addition of bed capacity.

8. The current state of COVID-19 in the community:

At the time of this writing, the Virginia Department of Health reports that Virginia has 6,500 cases of COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus, and 195 deaths.¹ To date, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed 579,005 cases in the United States, with 22,252 deaths.² There are currently 1,298 cases of COVID-19 positive patients in the Fairfax Health District, with an additional 1,644 patients in the surrounding jurisdictions.

Recommendation of the Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia

The Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia (HSANV) recommends approval of RHC's request and noted that the request is responsive to the purpose and specifications of Executive Order 52. Among other considerations, the initiatives described:

1. Comply with the objectives and provisions of Executive Order 52. The request to add large numbers of temporary adult medical-surgical and intensive care beds is supported by the information and assurances submitted in accordance with the guidance provided in the Commissioner of Health's letter of March 24, 2020.
2. Summarize practical ways to increase critical care capacity quickly and efficiently. This is consistent with complements the steps RHC reports taking outside the provisions of Executive Order 52 (e.g., converting step down beds and space to intensive care use) to respond to community concerns and medical needs.
3. Take advantage of space and bed complements at the hospital that permit sizable temporary increases in operating capacity. The ability to more than double the number of intensive care beds at RHC represents significant standby capacity to respond to increased demand that may arise from an influx of COVID-19 patients.
4. Represent actions that complement those being taken at other Northern Virginia hospitals in responding to local concerns and medical care needs likely to arise within the next month and beyond.

Findings and Conclusions

RHC proposes to temporarily add 138 licensed beds, including 81 ICU beds and 57 medical/surgical beds. The Division of Certificate of Public Need (DCOPN) finds that, due to the sudden and overwhelming increase in acute care cases resulting from COVID-19 infection throughout the Commonwealth, that RHC has an immediate need to temporarily add 138 beds. RHC has demonstrated that the rapid rise in COVID-19 cases has created an emergent need for a temporary increase in bed capacity. In the absence of a temporary increase to bed capacity in the planning district, it is conceivable that the continued rise of COVID-19 cases could overwhelm

¹ <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>

² https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcases-in-us.html

the hospital's capacity to treat patients, thereby jeopardizing the quality of care for residents of PD 8, and limit the ability of health care providers adequately treat and limit the spread of the virus.

Staff Recommendations

The Division of Certificate of Public Need recommends the **approval** of Reston Hospital Center's request to temporarily add 138 licensed beds on its campus. This staff recommendation is based on the following findings.

1. Reston Hospital Center has demonstrated that, due to the reasonable expectation of a sudden and overwhelming increase in acute care patients resulting from COVID-19 infection, Reston Hospital Center has an immediate need to temporarily add 138 beds.
2. Reston Hospital Center's plan for training and shifting available staff is a reasonable solution for staffing the additional beds.
3. Reston Hospital Center's plan to expand bed capacity in existing hospital space assures patient safety is maintained from a fire and life safety code perspective.
4. The Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia recommends approval of the request.