



Southside Regional Medical Center

April 3, 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: **Request pursuant to Executive Order 52 seeking authorization to add 22 beds
At Southside Regional Medical Center, Petersburg, Virginia (Planning District 19)**

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, Southside Regional Medical Center (“Southside Regional”) requests the Commissioner’s authorization to operate 22 temporary additional beds to supplement normal 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 Mercy Health Petersburg LLC d/b/a Southside Regional Medical Center 200 Medical Park Boulevard Petersburg, VA 23805
<u>Hospital License:</u>	H – 1905
<u>Current Approved Capacity:</u>	300 beds
<u>Requested Additional Capacity:</u>	22 intensive care beds Total of 322 beds operational

In accordance with CDC and CMS guidance and Governor Northam’s request, Southside Regional curtailed all non-essential inpatient and outpatient surgery effective March 23, 2020. As a result, hospital space is available for immediate use in response to the novel coronavirus threat.

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, and especially the utilization of intensive care beds and the significantly longer lengths of stay associated with those episodes of care. As a result, Southside Regional is preparing for this eventuality and redeploying its capacity.

Specifically, described below are the details of our request and the space in which the new beds would operate.

Intensive Care Beds

Southside Regional currently operates two 14-bed ICUs. One of the ICUs has been designated as our COVID-19 holding unit. To the extent possible, Southside Regional is housing other intensive care patients in current patient rooms that are unoccupied due to the curtailing of inpatient and outpatient non-essential surgery. This temporary reclassification of beds from medical/surgical to intensive care does not add to the licensed inventory at Southside Regional. The inpatient beds were historically used to house many short-stay post-surgical patients who are no longer being treated in those beds due to curtailing of non-emergent and elective inpatient surgical procedures. As existing inpatient medical/surgical patient rooms, those “new” ICU beds are equipped with all necessary life safety code requirements such as oxygen, medical gases and vacuum capabilities.

In addition, Southside Regional is preparing for a surge of admissions to come later in April when predictions forecast the peak for the pandemic. While Southside Regional may be able to use already licensed beds to accommodate a mild surge, it is preparing for a larger surge and requesting up to 22 additional intensive care beds.

The surgical case load at Southside Regional has dropped significantly. In addition to the operating rooms, the surgical area has all necessary support space for pre- and post-operative services as well as a post anesthesia care unit (“PACU”). Since there is currently very limited surgical caseload being performed, the PACU area is available to convert to this temporary use and create 22 additional private inpatient intensive care beds. These temporary beds are all equipped with oxygen, medical gases and vacuum capabilities, and are monitored.

Staff temporarily displaced by the curtailing of non-essential and elective surgery that used to be performed at Southside Regional and used to spend their inpatient stay in the now vacant inpatient beds, will be used to staff the additional intensive care beds and provide care in a safe and effective environment of care.

Availability of Medical Supplies and Personal Protective Equipment (“PPE”)

As part of Bon Secours Mercy Health, Southside Regional works with sister facilities in Richmond, Hampton Roads, and nationwide for access to all necessary medical supplies and PPE. Currently, the hospital is well supplied with all necessary medical supplies and PPE. In addition, we have started the reprocessing of N95 masks to ensure we have adequate PPE throughout the duration of our COVID-19 response.

Southside Regional stands ready to activate this conversion effective the week of April 5th. Please let me know if you need any additional information to evaluate our request.

Sincerely,



Donald John Emery
Interim 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