

April 30, 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 of Additional Beds at Alternate Care Site
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") continues to evaluate ways to expand its ability to meet increased patient needs associated with the COVID-19 public health emergency. By developing an alternate care site in conjunction with the City of Chesapeake at the City's RiverCrest Community Center ("RiverCrest"), CRMC will be able to operate additional beds to treat patients who do not need the higher acuity services that are provided at the hospital, thereby allowing CRMC to allocate its resources more efficiently to treat a greater number of patients.

This request is consistent with projections of a potential shortage in hospital beds and need to prioritize the beds available at CRMC for those patients in need of higher acuity services. 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;

CRMC is located at 736 Battlefield Boulevard, North, Chesapeake, Virginia 23320. CRMC intends to place the additional beds at RiverCrest, located at 1001 River Walk Parkway, Chesapeake, Virginia 23320. The City of Chesapeake owns RiverCrest and has operated it as a community center. RiverCrest is less than a ten minute drive from CRMC's hospital campus.

2. How many additional licensed beds are requested;

CRMC is requesting the temporary addition as needed of up to 94 beds at the RiverCrest facility. The alternate care site plan will be implemented within a 10 day period *only if* CRMC's existing and surge capacity approved beds are fully utilized and additional capacity is needed. As businesses and recreational facilities in Southeastern Virginia and the Outer Banks open up, the RiverCrest beds will be available to meet additional needs.

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

All 94 beds will be medical/surgical for non-COVID-19, non-monitored patients.

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 RiverCrest building. It is proposed that 76 beds will be located within the gym area of the RiverCrest building. There are three other rooms within the building that may also house beds depending on the patient population and need.

RiverCrest meets current life safety code requirements. The building maintains appropriate smoke detectors and fire alarms, has a full sprinkler system, and the City has installed the necessary emergency generators. CRMC will install portable medical gases appropriately secured to the facility floor. The City of Chesapeake Fire Chief has reviewed the plans for the building and pledged staff and resources to assure that the RiverCrest building meets applicable life safety code requirements as an alternate care site. Please refer to the attached operational plan for a rendering of 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 are intended to supplement the existing healthcare system in managing the surge of patients during this pandemic. If additional surge capacity is needed to meet patient demand, CRMC intends to use the beds at RiverCrest to treat stable, low-acuity patients with observational or palliative care to relieve the hospital of patients who do not require acute treatment services or are too ill to benefit from the higher acuity services provided at CRMC. CRMC and its medical staff will evaluate patients admitted to RiverCrest at the CRMC ED to determine appropriateness for referral.

6. The plan for staffing the beds.

CRMC will cross-train and redeploy staff from the hospital where possible to support these additional beds. CRMC also maintains the Chesapeake Medical Reserve Corps, which is made up of 250 volunteers and retired medical professionals who have expressed interest in working at the RiverCrest location. CRMC participates in mutual aid agreements with local, state, and federal partners through which CRMC will potentially be able to source additional staff members. All volunteers and additional staff will undergo adequate training and orientation.

CRMC is committed to ensuring that all individuals in need of medical care have efficient and timely access to services. While CRMC has received approval to temporarily operate additional beds at its hospital, CRMC (in conjunction with leaders of the City of Chesapeake) has recognized the need to establish an alternate care site that allows for streamlined treatment of patients who require only limited care. By identifying these patients upon intake, CRMC can free up beds at the hospital for more critical patients who need access to a wider range of treatment options. Patients who are deemed appropriate for treatment at RiverCrest will still receive the high quality care that is provided at the CRMC site.

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) 312-4150 or virginia.slocum@chesapeakeregional.com.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Piero Mannino, Supervisor, DCOPN