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June 1, 2020

By Email

[sherman.lohnes@state.ma.us](mailto:sherman.lohnes@state.ma.us)

Sherman Lohnes, JD, Director  
Division of Health Care Facility Licensure and Certification  
Massachusetts Department of Public Health  
67 Forest Street  
Marlboro, MA 01752

Re: Shriners Hospitals for Children – Boston  
Essential Health Services Notification 120 Day Letter

Dear Mr. Lohnes:

In accordance with 105 CMR 130.122(B), on June 1, 2020, Shriners Hospitals for Children – Boston, emailed the attached notice of intent to submit notice to the Department to close an essential health service, in substantial part, to the following individuals and groups (personalized accordingly):

Sal N. DiDomenico, Senator;  
Jay D. Livingstone, Representative;  
Maureen Feeney, Clerk, City of Boston; and  
Members of the hospital's Patient/Family Advisory Council.

On June 1, 2020, the hospital provided a copy to all hospital employees by email. The hospital does not have any labor organizations that represent employees.

Throughout, the Hospital will continue to provide the same specialty pediatric hospital services at its current Blossom Street location, in a hospital with a smaller, smarter, space. During the transition period, the hospital will remain open. Shriners has no plans to close or relocate the hospital.

The hospital looks forward to working with the Department during this process.

Very truly yours,

M. Daria Niewenhous

cc: Eileen F. Skinner, MHA FACHE, Administrator  
Robert L. Turner, Chairman, Board of Governors  
Attachment



**Shriners Hospitals**  
for Children®

**Boston**  
Pediatric Specialty Care

51 Blossom Street  
Boston, MA 02114

June 1, 2020

Via Email

[Addressee]

Re: Shriners Hospitals for Children - Boston  
51 Blossom Street, Boston, MA 02114

Dear [\_\_\_\_\_]:

Shriners Hospitals for Children - Boston is a pediatric acute care specialty hospital that serves the needs of children up to age 18 for a range of severe burn injuries, complex skin conditions, and cleft lip and palate.

We have made the strategic decision to reduce the Hospital's current bed complement from 30 licensed beds (12 Burn Unit beds and 18 Pediatric Service beds) to 9 licensed beds (4 Burn Unit beds and 5 Pediatric Service beds). These counts reflect projected occupancy including extended inpatient stay, observation and extended outpatient surgery recovery. In addition, we will decommission one of the Hospital's three operating rooms, and refresh and upgrade the two remaining operating rooms. Throughout, the Hospital will continue to provide the same specialty pediatric hospital services at its current Blossom Street location, in a hospital with a smaller, smarter, space. During the transition period, the Hospital will remain open.

By way of background, the current building at 51 Blossom Street, Boston, opened in 1999. Some features such as a large capacity auditorium and the expansive atrium, reflect a past esthetic and contribute little to patient care. The building was designed at a time when almost all surgical procedures of the type provided at the Hospital required an inpatient stay, and those stays were much longer than today's length of stay.

Following preliminary discussions with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (the "Department"), the Department determined that, because of the resulting reduction in licensed bed count, these changes trigger the essential health services process pursuant to the Department's Hospital Licensure Regulations. In accordance with the Regulations, we are providing you with at least 30 days advance notice of our intent to submit to the Department a 90-day notice of our intent to make the above-described changes – a discontinuation, in substantial part, of an essential health service. We anticipate filing this 90-day notice on or about July 1, 2020.



**Shriners Hospitals**  
for Children®

June 1, 2020

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Shriners Hospitals for Children - Boston remains committed to our mission of serving the needs of children, particularly pediatric burn victims, within a compassionate, family-centered and collaborative environment, to provide for the education of physicians and other healthcare professionals, and to conduct research to discover new knowledge that improves quality of care and quality of life of children and families without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability, and regardless of the family's ability to pay.

We welcome any questions you might have and will work with the Department of Public Health throughout the process.

Sincerely,

/s/

Robert L. Turner  
Chairman, Board of Governors

/s/

Eileen F. Skinner, MHA FACHE  
Hospital Administrator