



April 17, 2020

Margo Michaels, MPH
Director, Determination of Need
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street,
Boston MA 02511

RE: Notice of Determination of Need

Dear Ms. Michaels:

The Lowell General Hospital is requesting Determination of Need (DoN) Approval for temporary alternative care space at the University of Massachusetts – Lowell. The temporary alternative care space at the University of Massachusetts – Lowell will be used for the management and treatment of the COVID-19 virus. The site will be able to provide additional bed capacity to the Merrimack Valley in anticipation of a continued rise in cases of COVID-19.

Specifically, Lowell General Hospital is proposing to open a 90 bed post-acute care center to support the hospital's COVID-19 Pandemic response at the UML Recreation Center located at 322 Aiken Street, Lowell, MA. The establishment of the alternate care space will allow the hospital to transfer patients late in their acute care treatment not ready for discharge to this step-down unit while caring for higher acuity patients at the hospital's Intensive Care Unit. Without the ability to admit and treat the higher acuity patients within the hospital's Intensive Care Unit, the public's health could be measurably harmed. The site will begin with 15 beds and scale its capacity as needed.

We have estimated the overall cost of the project to be approximately \$300,000. The projected cost to outfit the space is approximately \$250,000. Although the cost of staffing and other operational costs will be variable, we have estimated operational costs to run the space to be approximately \$50,000. The Massachusetts Emergency Management Association provided cots and physical space set-up.

Please do not hesitate to contact Michael McAuliffe, Director of Ethics and Compliance, at michael.mcauliffe@lowellgeneral.org if there are additional questions related to the temporary alternative care space being proposed.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. White
President & Chief Executive Officer
Lowell General Hospital