



April 17, 2020

Margo Michaels, Director
Determination of Need Program
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

RE: Request for Determination of Need (DoN) Approval of Proposed Satellite Hospital Project For COVID-19 Patient Care During the State of Emergency.

Dear Director Michaels,

In accordance with your memorandum dated March 24, 2020 regarding Determination of Need Approval for proposed projects related to COVID-19 management and treatment, this letter is submitted on behalf of Southcoast Health System, Inc., a not-for-profit, integrated health system and its licensed acute care hospital Southcoast Hospitals Group, Inc., which comprises three licensed campuses: Charlton Memorial Hospital in Fall River, St. Luke's Hospital in New Bedford, and Tobey Hospital in Wareham (collectively, "Southcoast Health").

Southcoast Hospitals Group, Inc., respectfully requests approval from the Department of Public Health to establish and license a satellite hospital location with 100 medical/surgical beds for treatment of COVID-19 patients for the duration of the COVID-19 State of Emergency. The proposed satellite location would be licensed under Southcoast Hospitals Group, Inc.'s hospital license, and located in the Tripp Athletic Center on the campus of the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, 285 Old Westport Road, North Dartmouth, MA 02747. The location will safely and effectively serve acute COVID-19 patients in a clinically appropriate setting, while also mitigating risks to non-COVID-19 patients and the community. If Southcoast is unable to establish this field hospital, its providers and staff could become overwhelmed in the event of a patient surge in excess of available beds and services.

These additional beds for COVID-19 patients will provide critically needed "surge" capacity to support the clinical and social services needs of the South Coast region and its patients. Southcoast Hospitals Group, Inc. is establishing this satellite location in accordance with Massachusetts guidance pertaining to COVID+ Alternative Care Sites. Southcoast is working closely with the Massachusetts COVID-19 Response Command Center, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, UMASS Dartmouth and our clinical teams to prepare for additional bed capacity during the ongoing COVID-19 surge.

Given that Southcoast is presently working to stand-up this new field hospital, total costs are yet to be determined. Southcoast is planning to open the satellite location upon receipt of regulatory

approvals and establishment of the facility, and projects to start treating patients at the end of this month. Southcoast would cease operation of the satellite location at the end of the State of Emergency or earlier in the event there is no longer clinical need for the surge beds.

Southcoast Health is proud of our mission of providing high-quality affordable health care to our patients and communities.

Please accept this communication as an attestation signed under the pains and penalty of perjury that the proposed project is intended—and will only be used for—the immediate and timely management and treatment of COVID-19 patients.

We thank you in advance for your attention to this very important and timely request. If you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Renee Clark
Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer
Southcoast Health

Cc Secretary Marylou Sudders, COVID-19 Response Command Center
Leslie Darcy, EOHHS, COVID-19 Response Command Center
Commissioner Monica Bharel, MD, DPH
Rebecca Rodman, Office of General Counsel, DPH
Sherman Lohnes, DPH
Amanda Cassel-Kraft, MassHealth
Lois Johnson, HPC
Katherine Mills, HPC
Eric Gold, AGO
Ray Campbell, CHIA
Dianne McCarthy, CHIA