MARYLAND
Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

Office Health Care Quality
7120 Samuel Morse Drive
Second Floor
Columbia MD 21046

March 21, 2020

Ben Steffen, Executive Director
Maryland Health Care Commission
4160 Patterson Avenue
Baltimore MD 21215

Dear Mr. Steffen,

As you are aware, on March 5, 2020, Governor Hogan issued a proclamation that a state of emergency and a catastrophic health emergency exists in Maryland, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Based on the increased need for acute general hospital beds due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of Health Care Quality is requesting that the Maryland Health Care Commission apply its authority under COMAR 10.24.01.20 to grant an emergency certificate of need to Meritus Medical Center.

Meritus Medical Center has proposed construction of and licensure for a new a sixteen bed negative pressure inpatient unit adjacent the hospital's current emergency room. Construction will occur over the next 4 months and will be available to treat patients with the influenza like illnesses. The Office of Health Care Quality recommends this certificate of need should be approved on an emergency basis and based on the information provided by the hospital, these beds can be provisionally licensed as part of Meritus Medical Center.

Please contact me if you have any questions at (410)402-8090 or (443)681-0278.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Renee B. Webster, Deputy Director Federal Programs