

# MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

## Revised Emergency Certificate of Need

**TO:** Maulik S. Joshi, Dr. P.H.  
Meritus Medical Center  
1116 Medical Campus Road  
Hagerstown, Maryland

April 2, 2020  
Revision Date

**RE:** Establishment of 20-Bed Unit of  
Negative Pressure Ventilator-Capable Rooms  
Near the Endoscopy Center

EM-H20-21-002  
Docket No.

### DESCRIPTION OF EMERGENCY PROJECT

This Emergency Certificate of Need authorizes Meritus Medical Center to establish additional inpatient bed capacity in a 20-bed unit “Regional Infectious Containment Unit” consisting of 20 inpatient rooms that will be sized as medical/surgical/gynecological rooms, each of which will be negative pressure and ventilator capable, and will be located in a 12,650 square foot addition to be constructed near the endoscopy center at Meritus Medical Center, 1116 Medical Campus Road, Hagerstown (Washington County), Maryland (the Site). The estimated cost of the project is \$12.5 million, for which the hospital plans to seek donor funding. Meritus Medical Center projects that the addition can be patient-ready in four months after the issuance of this Emergency Certificate of Need.

### ORDER

Upon consideration of the request of Meritus Medical Center, suitably detailed information provided by the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) and others, and consultation with the Chairman of the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC), Ben Steffen, MHCC Executive Director, determined that the lack of sufficient inpatient bed capacity at Maryland general hospitals resulting from COVID-19 presents a hazard to patients and/or employees, as provided in COMAR 10.24.01.20A.

Therefore, it is, on April 2, 2020, ordered by the Executive Director that an Emergency Certificate of Need issue for the project. It is further ordered that the requirement in COMAR 10.24.01.20C that Meritus Medical Center file an application for Certificate of Need for the inpatient beds established in this Emergency Certificate of Need is suspended by the Executive Director pursuant to COMAR 10.24.01.10A(2) until 30 days after the termination of the state of emergency declared by Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. on March 5, 2020. This application filing date may be extended by the Executive Director.

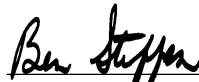
**Approvals by Maryland Department of Health**

This Emergency Certificate of Need does not constitute a license or replace any approvals for other aspects of the project that are required by the OHCQ or other divisions of the Maryland Department of Health to operate inpatient bed capacity at the Site.

**Further Action**

This Emergency Certificate of Need will be considered for confirmation by the Maryland Health Care Commission at its next scheduled meeting on April 3, 2020. This Emergency Certificate of Need initially remains valid for a maximum of 165 days, as provided in COMAR 10.24.01.20C, or until 30 days after the termination of the state of emergency declared by Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr. on March 5, 2020. The Emergency CON may be extended beyond that date for good cause shown.

**MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION**



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Ben Steffen  
Executive Director

cc: Robert R. Neall, Secretary of Health  
Patricia T. Nay, M.D., Executive Director, Office of Health Care Quality  
Katie Wunderlich, Executive Director, HSCRC  
Earl E. Stoner, MPH, Health Officer, Washington County