



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

Office of Health Care Quality  
7120 Samuel Morse Dr., 2nd floor  
Columbia, MD 21076

April 9th, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Steffen,

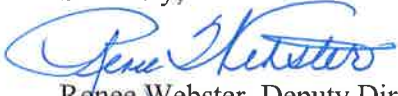
As you are aware, on March 5, 2020, Governor Hogan issued a proclamation that a state of emergency and a catastrophic health emergency exists in Maryland, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Based on the increased need for comprehensive care beds in skilled nursing facilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 Stella Maris. This approval would repurpose existing Adult Medical Day Care space and additional Auditorium space that is unused during the COVID-19 emergency to increase private bed availability in the facility which is needed due to the growing need of hospital beds and the need for hospitals to transfer those residents who do not warrant an extended hospital stay but require an elevated level of care as well as additional isolation precautions.

Stella Maris' proposed temporary licensure change would allow this re-purposing of existing space for the purpose of offering additional private bed accommodations, create additional physical barriers to prevent spread of COVID-19 in the current population, and for use by post-acute level patients allowing for an anticipated additional twelve (39) private, comprehensive care beds at an existing certified and licensed unit. There will be an additional cost of \$4,500 per month in rental expenses for associated beds and equipment. The re-purposing proposed is estimated to take seven days from the start date.

The Office of Health Care Quality recommends this certificate of need should be approved on an emergency basis, based on the information provided by the facility. These beds would be provisionally licensed by Office of Health Care Quality due to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Please contact me if you have any questions at (410) 402-8101 or (443) 832-7192.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Renee Webster". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Renee" being more prominent than the last name "Webster".

Renee Webster, Deputy Director of Federal Programs  
State of Maryland, Office of Healthcare Quality