



March 20, 2020

John Wiesman
Secretary of Health
State of Washington
Olympia, Washington

Dear Secretary Wiesman,

In this unprecedented era of planning for surge capacity to deal with the expected patients from the novel coronavirus pandemic COVID-19, the recently closed Astria Regional Medical Center in Yakima ("ARMC") is a facility that could be procured or leased quickly by the State in order to help handle the impending surge of patients. The State of California has leased the closed St. Vincent Medical Center in Los Angeles from the bankruptcy case of Verity Health System and our bankruptcy attorney can explain how this can be done quickly within the Astria Health bankruptcy case. For example, the lease of St. Vincent was approved by the bankruptcy court today, only 8 days after the State of California began discussions with Verity. Given that we already have template of a lease agreement, we might be able to move even more quickly. Given the identified need for additional inpatient beds for COVID-19 patients, procurement of ARMC through lease or acquisition, and operation of the facility by National Guard, or active duty military medical units, could be a quick way to activate additional inpatient resources in the State.

The two remaining Astria Hospitals are preparing for surge capacity as is Virginia Mason Memorial; however, there very likely is additional unmet need for the entire state if not Yakima alone. Attached is a summary of immediately available equipment at the time of this letter.

I look forward to hearing from you or your team.

Sincerely

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Physical Plant

The ARMC physical plant includes 3 boilers, emergency back-up power that includes three Cummings generators and a medical gas system. ARMC also has a fully functioning sterile processing department, full kitchen with 2 walk-In refrigerators, 2 walk-in freezers and an industrial ice machine. There is also a security system with video capabilities inside and outside. The entire facility is wired for Wifi with dedicated I.T Space and server rooms. The hospital also has a fully operational morgue.

Inpatient Capacity

Depending on the configuration and usage of space, the ARMC facility has an inpatient capacity of 148, including 30 semi-private rooms. If used as all private rooms, the inpatient capacity is 118. There are currently 80 physical beds available in the facility for the single room capacity of 118. Included in this total is a capacity of 25 ICU level patient rooms split between two units however, there are no inpatient ventilator units left at ARMC. In addition, there is a 30-bed telemetry unit. There are 4 negative pressure rooms.

Access to inpatient rooms is via elevators across from the Emergency Department.

Inpatient Holding Capacity

Emergency Department - The Emergency Department has 20 private patient rooms with doors and equipped with stretchers, including one negative pressure room.

Post-Anesthesia Recovery Unit – The PACU has 12 bays including one isolation room.

ARMC Diagnostic Capabilities

Imaging

MRI (1) – The magnet is turned off and would need to be re-activated

CTs (2) – One 64 slice and one low dose, with a cardiac and orthopedic package

Fluoroscopy - None

X-ray – 2 rooms, plus a portable and c-arms.

Ultrasound

Laboratory –

Currently equipped and functional pending return to the vendor within the next 120 days. Would need to have the vendor leave the equipment. PMs and validations.

Pharmacy

The space is vacant space with functional alarm system.