

Temporary Permission for Program Flexibility and for Emergencies

When the Medical Health Coordination Center (MHCC) is activated, Providers and District Offices (DOs) will submit requests to CHCQDutyOfficer@cdph.ca.gov

This form is to be used ONLY for program flexibility requests when providers temporarily need to comply with licensing requirements by using alternative concepts, methods, procedures, techniques, equipment, or personnel.

Providers are required to submit a program flexibility request to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Center for Health Care Quality for approval. This form is a mechanism to expedite the request directly to the Medical Health Coordination Center (MHCC) for approval in emergency situations.

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/DistrictOffices.aspx>

Facility Name

Mercy Medical Center Merced

Date of Request

8/7/2020

License Number

04000178

Facility Phone

209-564-5020

Facility Fax Number

209-564-5096

Facility Address

333 Mercy Ave

E-Mail Address

[REDACTED]@h.org

City

Merced

State

Ca

Zip Code

95340

Contact Person's Name

[REDACTED]

Approval Request

Complete one form total per facility

- Staffing Other
- Tent use (High patient volume) Bed Use
- Space Conversion (other than tent use) Over bedding

Duration of Request

Start Date 8/7/2020

End Date 11/7/2020

Program Flex Request

What regulation are you requesting program flexibility for? 70217 Nursing Services

Justification for the Request

- A disease outbreak (verifiable through sources such as the local emergency medical service agency (LEMSA), local Public Health Officer, CDPH Division of Communicable Disease Control, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) is present in the community where the hospital is located or in a contiguous area(s) causing a rapid influx (surge) of patients to the hospital. Examples of this type of surge include: Increased cases of seasonal influenza, onset of a severe acute respiratory syndrome-type or other highly contagious virus requiring acute care, an epidemic/pandemic, a bioterrorism agent, or a declared public health emergency.
- An emergency resulting in the need for increased patient accommodations has occurred in the community where the hospital is located or in a contiguous area(s) causing a rapid influx (surge) of patients to the hospital. Examples of this type of surge include: A natural or human-caused disaster, a crime incident or transportation accident resulting in numerous mass casualties, an emergency causing the evacuation of patients or diversions from another hospital (LEMSA diversion has been implemented).

If you are seeking a staffing waiver, has your facility laid off any clinical staff within the previous 60 days?
If so, please explain (**Note:** Attach supporting documentation if necessary)

Justification for the Request

Other:

Exhausting Available Alternatives

The provider must exhaust available alternatives before requesting increased patient accommodations. Check all that apply:

- Rescheduling non-emergent surgeries and diagnostic procedures.
- Transferring patients to other beds or discharge as appropriate.
- Setting clinics for non-emergency cases (if possible).
- Requesting ambulance diversion from LEMSA, if appropriate.

Other:

Adequate Staff, Equipment and Space

The provider must make arrangements for adequate staffing, equipment and space for increased patient accommodations. Check all that apply:

- A plan is in place for staff if the request is for use of alternate space.
- A plan is in place for equipment if the request is for use of alternative space.
- The proposed space for care of patients provides sufficient square footage to ensure access for safe care.

Other:

Additional Information

Provide a brief description of your conditions and explain the need for program flexibility. Provide a brief description of the alternative concepts, methods, procedures, techniques, equipment or personnel to be used, and the conditions under which this program flexibility will be used. Attach additional supporting documentation as needed.

Central California counties are experiencing a surge in Covid-19 related hospital visits and admissions. Our daily Covid-19 patient census is ranging between 45-55 patients. Currently 18 of the 20 ICU beds are Covid-19 related admissions, with 10 of them on ventilator support. The majority of our ventilated Covid-19 patients require one to one RN staffing due to acuity and intensity of care. We are committed to maintaining safe patient care and patient to RN ratios, however with the increasing challenges as listed below, we may experience an unavoidable short fall. Therefore, we are respectfully requesting a staffing ration flex for Mercy Medical Center Merced.

- No Registered Nurse layoffs in the last 60 days
- Short and long tern vacancies have been addressed through recruiting though our Dignity Health Talent Acquisition department and maximized use of contracted RN travel registry

