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HEALTH FACILITIES &

October 16, 2026

John P. Kniery
Board Administrator
Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Re: Notice of Temporary Suspension of Services – Provident Hospital of Cook County

Dear Mr. Kniery:

I am writing on behalf of Provident Hospital of Cook County ("Provident"), an affiliate hospital of the Cook County Health ("CCH"), located in Chicago, Illinois. The purpose of this letter is to provide notice pursuant to Illinois Admin. Code Section 1130.240(d) that on September 20, 2026, Provident temporarily suspended operation of its Intensive Care Unit ("ICU") for a period that is anticipated not to exceed one year.

Provident is implementing this temporary suspension of ICU services due to low patient volume as the unit currently serves an average of 1-2 patients per day. Provident ICU utilization has trended low for years. We anticipate that the suspension will result in greater than fifty percent (50%) reduction in ICU services.

Provident has an existing transfer process with John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County ("Stroger"), another system affiliate of CCH which is utilized for Provident patients requiring higher acuity clinical services. Provident currently transfers between 80-90 patients per month to Stroger. During the temporary suspension period, Provident anticipates that it will transfer all patients presenting to Provident who require ICU service to Stroger for so long as Stroger has capacity for such patients. Provident will maintain staffing levels necessary to triage, stabilize and properly effectuate such transfer of patients throughout the temporary suspension period. Stroger, as a higher volume ICU facility with established clinical staffing infrastructure, is prepared to accommodate the increase in ICU care that would result from Provident's temporary ICU service suspension. CCH is also working with other area acute care hospitals to secure patient transfer agreements.

As with all of its service lines, CCH is committed to ensuring that each of its affiliates offers services that the community needs access to with a high level of quality and with patient safety in mind. CCH intends to utilize

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the temporary suspension period to assess the long term viability of its ICU service line at Provident, with an eye to patient quality and safety.

If you have any questions or need any additional information following your review of this letter, please feel free to contact me via phone at 312-864-5103or via email _lsmith1@cookcountyhhs.org_.

Very truly yours,

Lauren Smith

Dr. Lauren Smith

Chief Medical Officer, Cook County Health