

February 15, 2022

Kimber L. Wraalstad
CEO/Administrator
North Shore Health
515 W. 5th Avenue
Grand Marais, MN 55604

Submitted via email.

Dear Ms. Wraalstad,

Thank you for connecting recently with Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) staff about proposed licensure changes at North Shore Health. I understand this was in follow-up to your proposal for an exception to the hospital bed moratorium, sent on September 1, 2021. My office was not in receipt of your correspondence to me, and I regret that the application was not routed appropriately; as it was addressed to the Commissioner, MDH staff assumed it was also forwarded to the lead team in the agency. Our apologies, therefore, on the delayed response.

Concerning your proposal, we have researched the applicability of existing exceptions in Minnesota Statutes, Section 144.551 to your project, but have found none directly pertaining to the North Shore Health proposal; we appreciate your assistance in the background research.

Thus, as next step, MDH will begin the required public interest review process under Minnesota Statutes, section 144.552, by reviewing your proposal for completeness. Should we have any further questions on the submission, we will follow-up by February 24, 2022. Otherwise, we will send a notification that MDH is ready to conduct the review.

Again, I want to apologize for the delay in our response to your proposal. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to Stefan Gildemeister at stefan.gildemeister@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,



Jan K. Malcolm
Commissioner
P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975