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January 21, 2022

Renee Mallory, ADH Deputy Director, Public Health Programs  
Arkansas Department of Health  
4815 West Markham Street  
Little Rock, AR 72205

RE: UAMS Plan for Increasing COVID Bed Capacity

Dear Director Mallory,

The following proposal is being submitted for consideration to increase the hospital bed capacity for COVID patients in Arkansas. With support from the Arkansas Department of Health, UAMS could increase its staffed bed capacity by a total of 27. Of this, 20 beds can be available for the care of COVID patients in negative-pressure medical beds for a period of 30 days, and 7 can be available for the care of COVID patients in negative-pressure ICU beds for a period of 45 days.

As you are aware, our greatest challenge continues to be the demand for nursing and other critical members of the patient care team. Given the time it would take to recruit contract labor staff and the current urgent need for increased capacities, we believe the most efficient way to staff these beds is to incentivize our existing staff. However, without external support, the expense of staffing additional beds would place a significant expense and unsustainable financial risk on the organization.

UAMS has estimated it will cost \$4,747,500 to fund staffing for these additional beds. This amount is calculated as follows:

20 additional MEDICAL COVID beds at \$4,500 per day for 30 days	\$2,700,000
7 additional ICU COVID beds at \$6,500 per day for 45 days	<u>\$2,047,500</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,747,500</b>

UAMS will provide and take full responsibility for the facilities, equipment, supplies, physicians, and ancillary support needed for the care of these incremental patients. UAMS also retains the privilege to bill patients' insurance for services rendered in compliance with our current policies.

UAMS will keep records of the use of the funds for this project and will supply them to ADH upon request. We are prepared to make these beds available immediately. If, for some unforeseen reason we are not able to staff the beds as planned, we will return a pro-rated portion of funding based on the actual number of beds staffed.

Thank you for consideration of our request. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to work with you on solving this urgent need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen A. Mette". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "S" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Stephen A. Mette, MD  
Senior Vice Chancellor for UAMS Health  
CEO for UAMS Medical Center