



September 8, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

The Petersburg Borough Assembly writes this letter in support of Petersburg Medical Center's grant applications for COVID-19 Emergency Funds. The funds would cover the costs associated with COVID-19 community efforts.

As the municipality of Petersburg, we are directly engaged in response and recovery efforts and have witnessed the contributions PMC continues to make in support of Petersburg's residents and the local economy during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The priority for Petersburg Medical Center since the beginning of the pandemic has been to shift leadership and staff efforts to a community protection role. As a result, the greatest expense for PMC during the pandemic has been outside the hospital doors and in the community. COVID-19 results in Petersburg demonstrate we are being successful at keeping our community safe, but this success requires a tremendous number of hours from staff at Petersburg Medical Center.

PMC's efforts have kept the economy viable. Beyond providing screening, testing, and public health information, PMC provides technical assistance and staffing that has played a key role in keeping our economy open and functioning. PMC staff worked with business leaders so they could reopen and continue to operate, paying attention to seafood processors who brought in hundreds of workers from out of state. By coordinating with the processors on safety measures, our seafood processing plants, which are vital to Petersburg's economy, have operated continuously throughout the summer. In addition, Petersburg Medical Center assisted our nonprofit childcare center to set up screening protocols allowing them to reopen safely and allow parents to return to work.

The request for reimbursement costs directly related to these community efforts during the pandemic to protect Petersburg are aside from the costs to hospitals in general, such as loss of revenue and the costs for equipment and supplies required to address COVID-19 patient needs.

This shift in priorities will be ongoing until the pandemic is no longer a threat to our community, but we need help to recover and to continue this work.

An example of some of the ongoing community efforts include:

- The Executive Director of Petersburg Medical Center assisted the Borough's Incident Commander to coordinate and address community issues.
- Petersburg Medical Center's Infection Prevention and Quality Manager took the lead in communication and education for the community on COVID issues on a daily basis through meetings, radio and other announcements.
- A crisis hotline was created at Petersburg Medical Center that is manned by a Petersburg Medical Center RN both day and night.

**Borough Administration**

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- Systematic testing was set up by hospital staff and is manned by hospital staff in multiple locations, including the airport.
- The medical center's laboratory staff specifically have had to run all on-site tests, setup protocols for COVID testing, and manage the connections to commercial labs to provide results for Petersburg residents
- Medical staff were charged with planning processes to mitigate safety issues in the seafood processing plants for production lines to continue without jeopardizing the health of the community, but necessary in order to keep the local economy functioning during the pandemic.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Mark Jensen  
Mayor