**[Your Name]**[Your Title/Role]
[Name of Organization/Board of Health]
[Address]
[City, State, ZIP Code]
[Email Address]
[Date]

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Public Health Commission
250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Members of the Massachusetts Public Health Commission,

As [a medical professional/member of the Board of Health for [Name of Town/Region]], I am writing to express my concern regarding the ongoing closure of Norwood Hospital and to advocate for its expedited reopening. Norwood Hospital has been a cornerstone of healthcare in Norfolk County, providing essential medical services and emergency care to a diverse and growing population.

Since its closure due to flooding in June 2020, the impact on regional healthcare infrastructure has been profound. Patients in Norwood and the surrounding communities are now forced to travel significant distances for acute care and emergency services, increasing the risk of adverse health outcomes, particularly for those in vulnerable populations. This disruption has also placed an unsustainable burden on nearby hospitals and emergency medical services, compromising timely access to care.

Reopening Norwood Hospital is not only a matter of restoring healthcare access but also of addressing public health equity. The absence of a critical healthcare facility in this region leaves residents underserved, which is inconsistent with our collective mission to promote accessible, high-quality healthcare for all Massachusetts residents.

Additionally, the hospital has historically been a critical employer and economic driver for the region. Its prolonged closure continues to have ripple effects on the local economy, impacting healthcare workers, ancillary staff, and surrounding businesses.

As public health leaders, I urge the Department of Public Health to prioritize and facilitate collaborative discussions among stakeholders, state and local officials, and healthcare providers, to expedite the hospital’s reopening. Addressing regulatory, financial, and logistical barriers is essential to ensuring this critical facility can resume operations and meet the health needs of the community.

I am asking that you publicly affirm that your administration supports the return of an acute care hospital at the Norwood site and direct your staff at DPH to complete an Emergency Determination of Need in a shortened period of time from the point of application; we are confident this will lead to a new hospital to serve this region.

I would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with the Department or provide further input as you consider next steps. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and for your unwavering commitment to safeguarding the health of our communities.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Title/Role]
[Name of Organization/Board of Health]

[Optional: Include specific data or examples related to the impact on public health in your region to strengthen the letter.]