



April 14, 2020

**ILLINOIS HEALTH AND HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Chief Executive Officers, Member Hospitals and Health Systems in Cook County
Chief Medical Officers

FROM: A.J. Wilhelmi, President & CEO
Tim Nuding, Senior President, Member Services & Corporate Finance
Keneatha Johnson, Director, Quality, Safety, and Health Policy

SUBJECT: Update on McCormick Place Alternate Care Facility – Intake Criteria

Following is new information regarding the McCormick Place Alternate Care Facility (MPACF). IHA has been asked by the City of Chicago to provide this information to you.

What is the McCormick Place Alternate Care Facility?

The McCormick Place Alternate Care Facility (MPACF) was commissioned by the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois as part of a planning strategy to provide additional treatment capacity for COVID-19 positive patients in the event that the patient surge related to the pandemic threatens to overwhelm our existing healthcare system in the Chicago Metropolitan Area. MPACF is a key part of the strategy to alleviate the burden of low-acuity COVID patients on Chicago's existing health care system so hospitals and healthcare workers can serve more severe cases in the hospitals. The medical mission of this facility is to provide care to low-to-moderate acuity patients for COVID-19 but are otherwise ambulatory and able to perform activities of daily living. The facility currently consists of 500 beds of initial capacity in Hall C of McCormick Place; additional capacity is currently being developed in Halls A and B.

The facility was designed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Construction efforts have been supported by Walsh Group, and wrap-around services are being procured through a variety of contractors. DuPage Medical Group has provided clinical expertise and has helped coordinate clinical staffing from a variety of sources.

When will the MPACF be prepared to accept patients?

The MPACF is now ready to accept patients. Patients will only be permitted to enter the facility via medical transport from a local hospital deployed from MPACF.

What are the MPACF's intake criteria?

Confirmed or probable COVID-19 patients nearing discharge who cannot return home due to the risks of that home setting (any congregate setting or immunocompromised / elderly family members from which they cannot remain isolated) will be considered for MPACF transfer. For a detailed list of clinical intake criteria, please reference the April 14, 2020 Health Alert Network (HAN) bulletin published by the Chicago Department of Public Health ([click here](#)).

Criteria for admission will change over time and the facility reserves the right to return a patient to the discharging facility by EMS transport if their clinical assessment differs from the facility sign-out during the intake process.

How can I transfer a patient to the MPACF?

The Hospital discharge planning liaison can contact the MPACF Intake Coordinator at MPACF command center by calling 312-791-6620 starting April 14, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Intake calls will be taken 24 hours a day and EMS transport will be arranged by MPACF.