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TO: Illinois Hospitals

FROM: Public Health Emergency Operations Center  
Illinois Department of Public Health

DATE: March 23, 2020

RE: Development of COVID-19 Hospital Triage Mechanisms

Dear Hospital Partners,

To help conserve healthcare resources, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has developed a screening protocol (attached) to assist healthcare facilities with screening non-critical patients for COVID-19. This protocol was developed as a screening tool for Emergency Departments but can be easily adapted for other point of entry operations within your institution.

IDPH does not mandate the use of this protocol but encourages that your institution consider adopting either this screening protocol or something similar as soon as possible. Early identification of possible COVID-19 cases enables healthcare providers to minimize exposure risks to both healthcare personnel and patients, which in turn will decrease the overall burden on limited healthcare resources.

If you find that you need assistance in requesting resources for setting up or creating these triage mechanisms, please contact your Regional EMS Coordinator (REMESC) at IDPH. All requests for resources or supplies regarding this effort should go through the ESF-8 Request for Resources Process.

Thank you for your on-going efforts to ensure that the healthcare system in Illinois remains robust throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and can continue caring for the patients who rely upon us.