April 1, 2020

ILLINOIS HEALTH AND HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief Executive Officers, Member Hospitals and Health Systems
   Chief Operating Officers
   Chief Medical Officers
   Chief Nursing Officers
   Chief Quality Officers
   Chief Financial Officers
   Emergency Preparedness Contacts
   Emergency Department Directors
   Behavioral Constituency Section
   Government Relations Personnel
   In-House Counsel
   Public Relations Directors

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

SUBJECT: IHA COVID-19 Update – April 1, 2020

Following is a brief recap of today’s top developments.

Situational Awareness
The Illinois Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) today announced 986 new COVID-19 cases, for a total of 6,980 cases in 56 counties statewide. Forty-two new deaths were reported for a total of 141 deaths.

Governor J.B. Pritzker noted those who recently have become unemployed are eligible for health coverage through the Affordable Care Act through a special open enrollment period. Visit GetCovered.Illinois.gov.

State Receiving Applications to Build Up Healthcare Workforce
Governor Pritzker provided an update on the state’s efforts to search for new healthcare workers and to enlist the help of retired healthcare workers. He said the state has received more than 1,100 applications from retired, out-of-state, inactive or non-practicing medical professionals who want to volunteer to help provide healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Governor also said the state continues to explore options to allow some fourth-year medical students and nursing students to join the fight against COVID-19.
COVID-19 Telehealth - State Coverage and Reimbursement
IHA today issued a memo that summarizes key state policy changes on telehealth coverage related to the COVID-19 health emergency and that apply to claims covered under Medicaid fee-for-service and all HealthChoice Illinois managed care plans. The memo also includes a list of resources:
- The latest IHA memos related to telehealth reimbursement for Medicare, Medicaid and commercial payers;
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) guidance related to COVID-19;
- Sample informed consent forms and telehealth templates; and
- Guidance on business associate agreements.

IHFSRB Guidance on Expanding Bed Capacity, Suspending Service
The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (IHFSRB) has released guidance on how hospitals can expand their bed capacity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidance provides for an Emergency Preparedness Response Report to be filed with the Board within 30 days of the bed increase. Hospitals do not need to get pre-approval for this action. Hospitals may also temporarily suspend a facility or category of service pursuant to IHFSRB rules. This action also does not require pre-approval. The full guidance, including information that must be included in the letter of submission to IHFSRB, can be found here. An FAQ developed by the Planning Board can be accessed here.

Extension for S-10 Audits
On March 31, National Government Services (NGS) announced on a call with hospital associations and providers that Medicare worksheet S-10 audit requests for documentation have been sent to providers. However, hospitals may call NGS to request an extension for the document request. At this time, NGS can grant extensions for document requests until May 15. Additionally, on March 26, Wisconsin Physician Services (WPS) confirmed via email correspondence with IHA that they have temporarily stopped work on S-10 audits until at least May 15. According to this email, providers working with WPS do not have to request extensions.

CDC Guidance on Decontamination/Reuse of Filtering Facepiece Respirators
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health today issued guidance on decontaminating disposable filtering facepiece respirators (FFRs) for reuse during times of contingency and crisis capacity. CDC does not recommend that FFRs be decontaminated and then reused as standard care but rather as an option that may need to be considered when there are FFR shortages.

Illinois Congressional Delegation Democrats Send PPE Letter to President Trump
Democratic Senators Richard J. Durbin and Tammy Duckworth joined Democratic House members in the Illinois delegation in sending a letter to President Trump, urging the Administration to immediately implement a federally coordinated effort to meet Illinois’ need for personal protective equipment (PPE). In the letter, members outlined the life-threatening shortage of respirators, masks, protective eyewear, face shields, gloves, gowns, and other protective equipment for healthcare workers and first responders in Illinois and across the country. The delegation members urged the Administration to immediately order the coordinated, full-scale deployment of every public and private resource to ensure that doctors, nurses, EMS workers, and others have the protective equipment they need.
New CDC Report on Presymptomatic Transmission of Coronavirus

According to the CDC’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report released today, an investigation of all 243 cases of COVID-19 reported in Singapore during January 23–March 16 identified seven clusters of cases in which presymptomatic transmission is the most likely explanation for the occurrence of secondary cases. The possibility of presymptomatic transmission increases the challenges of containment measures. The report says that public health officials conducting contact tracing should strongly consider including a period before symptom onset to account for the possibility of presymptomatic transmission. The potential for presymptomatic transmission underscores the importance of social distancing, including the avoidance of congregate settings, to reduce COVID-19 spread.

IDPH Email Portal for Receiving Hospital Questions, Comments, Ideas

To send questions, comments or ideas to IDPH, email dph.hospitaladmin@illinois.gov. A team of staff assigned from the IDPH Director’s Office is reviewing the emails, with a goal of responding in 24 hours.

SIREN

To register for the State of Illinois Rapid Electronic Notification System (SIREN), go to https://siren.illinois.gov/agreement.php or email dph.siren@illinois.gov

Resources

- IDPH webpage on COVID-19
- Illinois COIVD-19 website for the public - coronavirus.illinois.gov
- CDC Homepage for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
- Chicago Department of Public Health COVID-19 webpage
- IHA webpage on COVID-19

If you have questions or comments, please contact Tim Nuding, Senior Vice President, Member Services and Corporate Finance at 217-541-1164 or tnuding@team-iha.org