April 11, 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 11, 2020

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

Situational Awareness
The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today announced 1,293 new COVID-19 cases and 81 additional deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 19,180 in 86 counties, with a total of 677 deaths.

IEMA RFI: Alternate Care Facility Medical Services
The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) requests information from responsible bidders to provide and administer clinical services and care in the following Alternate Care Facilities: (i) Former MetroSouth Medical Center, Blue Island, IL; (ii) Former Westlake Hospital, Melrose Park; (iii) Former Sherman Hospital Medical Building, Elgin, IL; and (iv) Former Vibra Hospital, Springfield, IL.

IEMA asks interested bidders to complete and submit a Vendor Submission of Interest Form by April 14, 2020. For more information, please review IEMA’s Request for Information (click here).
All questions, other than questions raised at the bidder conference/site visit, pertaining to this solicitation must be submitted in writing to the Solicitation Contact no later than midnight (12:00 AM) on Saturday, April 11, 2020. Direct all questions to the IEMA Solicitation Contact: ema.rfiquestions@illinois.gov.

State Launches Mental Health Hotline, Remote Patient Monitoring Program
At today’s press briefing, Governor J.B. Pritzker announced a “Call4Calm” mental health support hotline for Illinoisans. To receive a call back from a counselor, individuals can text the word “Talk” or “Hablar” (Spanish-language) to 552020.

The state is also launching a Remote Patient Monitoring Program utilizing telehealth and Pandemic Health Worker (PHW) programs in partnership between the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, OSF HealthCare and Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. The program will support residents with a focus on underserved communities and those at risk during the pandemic. PHWs will digitally connect with people who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and need to stay home to protect themselves and others. PHWs will virtually visit recipients daily, deliver wellness kits, and follow-up over a 14-day period to ensure no further assistance is needed. For more details, see the state’s press release.

Cook County Medical Examiner Office – Surge Operation Center
The Cook County Medical Examiner’s Office has established a Surge Operation Center for Fatality Management. Non-COVID storage cases can be sent to the Cook County’s Medical Examiner tomorrow from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm via private contractor either allied in the City of Chicago or by private ambulance. For additional questions or concerns, contact Victoria Raspante at victoria.raspante@cookcountyil.gov or 773-339-5449.

Mobile support units are also available for onsite placement at hospitals in Cook County to expand morgue capacity. These units are 53’ long and operate on a diesel fuel generator. Confirm with your facilities department that your dock can accommodate this unit. For more information, contact Robert Dunne at Robert.dunne@cookcountyil.gov or 312-671-5333.

FDA Authorizes Blood Purification Device to Treat COVID-19
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for a blood purification system to treat patients 18 years of age or older with confirmed COVID-19 admitted to the intensive care unit with confirmed or imminent respiratory failure. The FDA issued this EUA to Terumo BCT Inc. and Marker Therapeutics AG for their Spectra Optia Apheresis System and Depuro D2000 Adsorption Cartridge devices.

The authorized product works by reducing the amount of cytokines and other inflammatory mediators, i.e., small active proteins in the bloodstream that control a cell’s immune response by filtering the blood and returning the filtered blood to the patient. The proteins that are removed are typically elevated during infections and can be associated with a “cytokine storm” that occurs in some COVID-19 patients, leading to severe inflammation, rapidly progressive shock, respiratory failure, organ failure and death. See an FDA press release for more information.
**NIMHD Notice re: Research on COVID-19 Disparities**

The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) is issuing a Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) to highlight the urgent need for research on the impact of COVID-19 and disruptions on individual and social wellbeing, health services use, and health outcomes for NIH-designated health disparity populations.

NOSI is soliciting research in health disparity populations that seeks to understand: 1) how state and local policies and initiatives mitigate or exacerbate disparities in health services use and health outcomes; 2) the role that community-level protective and resilience factors and interventions have in mitigating the effects of the sector disruptions that the COVID-19 outbreak causes; and 3) how behavioral and/or biological mechanisms may contribute to COVID-19 manifestations. Learn more here.

**“Protect the Heroes” Campaign**

The Creative Coalition, Association for Healthcare Philanthropy, and the American Hospital Association have launched the “Protect the Heroes” campaign, which allows the general public to make donations to hospitals and health systems. Every dollar raised from Protect the Heroes goes directly to the donor’s choice of local hospital to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) and other support for their local healthcare workers to fight COVID-19.

**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 COVID-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