April 17, 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 17, 2020

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

Situational Awareness
The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today announced 1,842 new COVID-19 cases (the highest one-day number of new cases), 62 additional deaths and 7,574 tests (the second highest number of tests conducted in a day). The total number of cases in the state is 27,575 in 92 counties, with a total of 1,134 deaths.

At today’s press briefing, Governor J.B. Pritzker announced the suspension of in-person learning at all Illinois schools (public and private) for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

AHA, Others Release Roadmap to Resume Elective Surgeries
Today, the American Hospital Association (AHA), American College of Surgeons, American Society of Anesthesiologists, and Association of periOperative Registered Nurses announced they have developed a roadmap to guide readiness, prioritization and scheduling of elective surgeries to ensure patients can have elective surgeries safely as soon as possible. The roadmap provides key principles and considerations for healthcare professionals and organizations. The four organizations concur that healthcare facilities should not resume elective procedures until there has been a sustained reduction in the rate of new COVID-19 cases in the area for at least 14 days. They also say adequate staff and supplies, including personal protective equipment (PPE), beds, ICU beds and ventilators to treat non-elective patients without resorting to a crisis-level standard of care, should be available. Read more in an AHA press release.
Trump Issues Plan to Reopen America
President Trump has released guidelines on “Opening Up America Again.” The document outlines a three-phased approach designed to mitigate the risk of resurgence and protect the most vulnerable populations. The guidelines include core state preparedness responsibilities that focus on testing and contact tracing, healthcare system capacity and plans to protect the health and safety of people. For more details, see a White House fact sheet. Remarks on the guidelines from the President and the White House Coronavirus Task Force are available here.

IDPH Issues Emergency Rules Implementing COVID-19 Emergency Order No. 24
Yesterday, April 16, the Governor issued an Executive Order (COVID-19 #24) which instructs the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to exercise discretion regarding enforcement of all provisions of the: (i) Hospital Licensing Act; (ii) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act; (iii) Department of Public Health Powers and Duties Law; (iv) Illinois Adverse Health Care Events Reporting Law of 2005; and (iv) corresponding regulations in order to assist hospitals and healthcare providers response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure patient safety.

Today, IDPH issued emergency rules implementing the Governor’s Executive Order. Under the emergency rules, all of the rules for the Hospital Report Card Act and the Adverse Health Care Events Reporting Code are suspended. Additionally, certain provisions of the Hospital Licensing Act are suspended in their entirety or modified. Finally, the process for establishing an alternate care facility (whether by a hospital or by the State) are set forth, including the standards that such alternate care facilities must meet. See IHA’s detailed summary of the emergency rules.

IHA Updates Federal Funding Resource Documents
Today, IHA released an updated version of the Federal Funding Opportunities Resource Document, which provides an overview of funding stream for which hospitals and health systems may apply to assist with increased costs and financial losses due to the novel coronavirus pandemic. Updates include new information on funds from the $100 billion provider relief fund, as well as new information on the emergency $200 million telehealth program to support connected care services and devices. This document, along with IHA’s Automatic Federal Fiscal Relief Resource Document, is updated regularly.

Marriott Offers No Cost Rooms to Front-line Healthcare Workers in Chicago
Marriott Bonvoy is launching “Rooms for Responders”, in collaboration with its credit card partners, American Express and JPMorgan Chase, to provide no cost rooms to front-line health care workers in some of the hardest hit cities in the U.S., including Chicago. This program is committed to providing $10 million worth of hotel stays for healthcare professionals leading the fight against COVID-19. For details, click here. For other special discounts being offered by companies to healthcare workers, see AHA’s “100 Million Mask Challenge” discounts webpage.

FEMA COVID-19 Hospital Resource Package
The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Healthcare Resilience Task Force has created a COVID-19 Hospital Resource Package. The document contains guidance and resources for hospital administrators, hospital emergency planners and infection control practitioners in the following areas: hospital surge, crisis standards of care, staffing surge and resilience, workforce protection, regulatory relief, equipment supply surge and telemedicine.

CMS Repository for COVID-19 Calls, Webinars, Podcasts
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is housing all of its COVID-19 conference calls, open door forums, and webinar transcripts and audio recording, along with its podcasts, on a central webpage for easy access. The page will be updated as new materials become available.
FDA Guidance on Compounding to Improve Drug Access
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued temporary guidance on the compounding of certain drugs for hospitalized patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. Hospitals are having difficulties accessing some FDA-approved drugs for use in COVID-19 patients. The guidance allows temporary flexibility for hospitals to acquire these drugs from outsourced FDA-registered compounding facilities.

FDA Urges Plasma Donations for Clinical Investigations
The FDA urges those who have fully recovered from COVID-19 to donate their plasma for an FDA investigation on how it has the potential to lessen the severity or shorten the length of illness caused by COVID-19. The FDA launched a new webpage to guide recovered COVID-19 patients to local blood or plasma collection centers to discuss their eligibility and schedule an appointment to donate.

Preckwinkle Launches COVID-19 Dashboard and Interactive Map
Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle has unveiled the Cook County Medical Examiner COVID-19 Dashboard and interactive Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) Map. The dashboard provides critical information about coronavirus deaths in the County. The SVI Map focuses on communities in Cook County that will likely need the most support during a catastrophic event such as a pandemic. Data from the County’s Medical Examiner’s Office shows that African Americans account for half of all COVID-19 deaths in Cook County. See a press release for more information.

NIH Leads Global Effort on COVID-19 Drug/Vaccine Research
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Foundation for the NIH (FNIH) are partnering with other agencies and leading biopharmaceutical companies to develop an international strategy for a coordinated research response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines partnership will develop a framework for prioritizing vaccine and drug candidates, streamlining clinical trials, coordinating regulatory processes and/or leveraging assets among all partners to rapidly respond to the COVID-19 and future pandemics. Read more here.

AHA, AMA Guidance on Cyberattacks During Pandemic
Responding to a spike in cyberattacks that exploit telework technologies during the COVID-19 pandemic, AHA and the American Medical Association have issued guidance to hospitals and physicians on protecting a remote work environment from cyber criminals. The resource includes checklists, sources, tips and advice on strengthening protections to keep pace with deceptive cyberattacks that could disrupt patient care or threaten medical records and other data.

IDPH Recommended Guidance for Fatality Management During COVID-19 Response
According to the IDPH’s recommended guidance, persons handling a decedent who died of COVID-19 should follow routine infection prevention and control precautions. When the capacity of hospital morgues and other locations where human remains are stored in a jurisdiction are exceeded, it may be necessary to establish a temporary morgue.

Clarification on Imported KN95 Masks
IDPH has issued a document clarifying previous guidance on the use of imported KN95 masks.

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-ih.org