April 18, 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 18, 2020

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

Situational Awareness
The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today announced 1,585 new COVID-19 cases, 125 additional deaths (matching the previous one-day high number) and 7,241 tests (the second consecutive day with more than 7,200 tests conducted). The total number of cases in the state is 29,160 in 93 counties, with a total of 1,259 deaths.

IDPH Guidelines on Emergency Preparedness for Hospitals During COVID-19 (Crisis Standards of Care)
On Thursday, IDPH notified the State Emergency Operations Center that hospitals may need to implement crisis standards of care pursuant to their disaster response plans. This morning, IDPH issued “Guidelines on Emergency Preparedness for Hospitals During COVID-19”. As IDPH noted, given the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic, hospitals must be ready to deploy crisis standards of care as they move towards a highly critical stage in their operations.

The guidance is largely based on the prior work of the State’s Crisis Standard of Care Workgroup, which was established in 2014 to develop a statewide crisis of care plan in response to the Institute of Medicine’s “Establishing Crisis Standards of Care for Use in Disaster Situations: A Letter Report (2009).”
The ethics subcommittee of this workgroup focused on the ethical framework for delivery of health care in crisis situations and produced a whitepaper entitled, “Ethical Guidance for Crisis Standards of Care in Illinois”. The whitepaper has been a crucial tool to assist health care entities in developing ethically sound policies. In addition, the IDPH’s ESF-8 Plan: Catastrophic Incident Response Annex (ESF-8 CIR Annex) provides facility-specific “Crisis Care and Resource Allocation Tactics” to provide health care providers with resource allocation strategies that may be implemented during catastrophic incidents.

Because the COVID-19 pandemic will hit regions of the State in different phases, each hospital, in consultation with their local health department, regional hospital coordinating center, IDPH, and their regional health care coalition, is best equipped to assess whether and when crisis standards of care are required in their own institution.

See IHA’s detailed summary of the IDPH Guidelines.

### Telehealth/Remote Patient Monitoring Program Expanded Statewide

At this afternoon’s press briefing, Governor J.B. Pritzker announced that the state is expanding its telehealth program that allows remote patient monitoring for COVID-19 after being launched last week in southern and central Illinois.

The Governor said: “This program serves those potentially infected with a mild version of COVID-19, who will be able to recover from the safety of their homes. That’s the vast majority of people who get infected. Patients will receive daily virtual visits by healthcare workers and receive wellness kits that include things like thermometers and pulse oximeters, blood pressure cuffs and alcohol wipes. And to be very clear, the remote patient monitoring program is available to everyone who is COVID positive, and recovering at home, regardless of your insurance coverage.”

Under the program, OSF Healthcare is providing telehealth services in Central Illinois, Metro East and Rockford; SIU Medicine in Southern and West Central Illinois; and Advocate Aurora Healthcare in most of Northern Illinois, including the Chicago metropolitan area.

For more information about the program, [click here](#).

### 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