April 2, 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 2, 2020

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

Situational Awareness
The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today announced 715 new COVID-19 cases, for a total of 7,695 cases in 61 counties statewide. Sixteen new deaths were reported for a total of 157 deaths.

State Opening Additional Alternative Care Facility – Westlake Hospital
Governor J.B. Pritzker announced this afternoon that the former Westlake Hospital in Melrose Park will be developed into an alternative care facility (ACF) with 230 beds for lower acuity COVID-19 patients. The Westlake facility is in addition to the three previously announced ACF facilities—MetroSouth Medical Center, Advocate Sherman Hospital and McCormick Place. ACF construction will be completed on a rolling basis in the coming weeks. The Governor also said the state is working on opening a central Illinois location, with information on that facility to be released soon.

Governor Issues Executive Order on Healthcare Liability
Governor Pritzker has issued an Executive Order directing certain healthcare facilities (including hospitals), healthcare workers (including those licensed or certified), and volunteers (including unlicensed medical and nursing students) to “render assistance” in support of the State’s response to
the COVID-19 outbreak and granting immunity from civil liability to those who do. The broad immunity
covers any injury or death alleged to have been caused by any act or omission that occurs in the course
of “rendering assistance” to the State unless the injury or death is caused by willful misconduct.

In order for these protections to apply to a covered healthcare facility, “rendering assistance” must
include cancelling or postponing elective surgeries and procedures, increasing the number of beds,
preserving personal protective equipment, or taking necessary steps to prepare to treat patients with
COVID-19. For covered healthcare workers and volunteers, each must be working at a covered
healthcare facility or under the direction of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency or Illinois
Department of Public Health providing healthcare services or other services, assistance, or support, as
applicable.

The Executive Order does not preempt or limit any other statute that provides immunity from civil
liability that may be available to an otherwise covered health care facility, healthcare worker, or
volunteer. IHA has been advocating for these protections with the Governor’s Office in conjunction with
the Illinois State Medical Society. These protections will provide coverage as hospitals continue to
respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and adds to the liability protections extended to volunteer health
care professionals under Section 3215 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES
Act) (H.R. 748).

**IHA COVID-19 Funding Tools**

IHA today released two tools to assist hospitals and health systems in tracking COVID-19 expenses to
help them obtain funding. The first is a COVID-19 financial tracking tool to help hospitals and health
systems think through how they will track spending, employee hours and supply purchases. While
hospitals may apply for or receive funds from multiple sources, they may not use multiple finance
streams to pay for the same expenses. IHA recommends hospitals closely track their COVID-19
expenses, and the financing source they plan to utilize to pay for those expenses.

One such funding source is the Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payment Program, an existing
program that was expanded and altered under the CARES Act. While the Centers for Medicare &
Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a fact sheet explaining eligibility and process criteria, IHA has received
many questions from members that were not addressed by this guidance or Medicare Administrative
Contractor (MAC) websites. To assist hospitals and health systems with the application process, IHA has
developed a Frequently Asked Questions document, which will be updated as additional questions and
issues come to our attention.

**Updated CDC Guidance on Disinfecting Facilities**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has updated its guidance on how to clean and disinfect a
facility when someone is sick.

**Updated CMS COVID-19 FAQs for Medicaid and CHIP**

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) posted additional Frequently Asked
Questions (FAQs) to the Medicaid.gov website to aid state Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance
Program (CHIP) agencies in their response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

**State Expands Domestic Violence, SAS Services**

Today, the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) announced the launch of a $1.2 million plan to
increase capacity of its current statewide network of services for domestic violence and sexual assault
survivors (SAS) during the current COVID-19 pandemic. The plan expands the role of the Domestic Violence Helpline by creating a one-stop access point for shelter needs. Survivors who call the helpline directly at 877-TO END DV (877-863-6338 voice or 877-863-6339 TTY) will be connected to a shelter through existing Domestic Violence Prevention and Intervention (DVPI) shelter services or to emergency shelter through available hotels and motels. Survivors also may contact their local domestic violence programs for shelter assistance.

**AbbVie Partners with International Medical Corps to Increase Healthcare Capacity**
AbbVie, a global biopharmaceutical company based in North Chicago, has announced a donation of $35 million to support COVID-19 relief efforts, including increasing healthcare capacity for hospitals in Chicago and seven other U.S. sites. International Medical Corps will deploy 20 mobile field hospitals at the eight sites to help increase surge capacity at hospitals and enable hospitals to expand available triage and treatment space, improve patient flow and keep COVID-19 patients separated from other patients. Each field hospital includes the equipment, personnel and resources to effectively provide urgent or outpatient care to hundreds of patients per day, including patient beds, medical examination supplies, portable sinks, power, lighting and HVAC units.

**State Launches Campaign to Reinforce Stay-At-Home Message**
The state has launched a campaign called [All in Illinois](https://www.illinois.gov/) to reinforce the state's core message: stay at home and stay safe. According to a press release, “All in Illinois is a way to unite residents across the state and remind them we are all in this together.”

**IDPH Email Portal for Receiving Hospital Questions, Comments, Ideas**
To send questions, comments or ideas to IDPH, email [dph.hospitaladmin@illinois.gov](mailto: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](https://siren.illinois.gov/agreement.php) or email [dph.siren@illinois.gov](mailto:dph.siren@illinois.gov)

**Resources**
- IDPH webpage on COVID-19
- Illinois COVID-19 website for the public - [coronavirus.illinois.gov](https://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](mailto:tnuding@team-iha.org)