April 20, 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 20, 2020

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

Situational Awareness
The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today announced 1,151 new COVID-19 cases and 59 deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 31,508 in 95 counties, with a total of 1,349 deaths.

Update on COVID-19 Hospitalizations
At today’s press briefing, Governor J.B. Pritzker provided an overview of COVID-19 hospitalizations, ICU bed occupancy, and ventilator use in the state. As of April 19, there were a total of 4,599 hospitalized COVID-19 patients. COVID-19 patients occupied 1,239 ICU beds of the 3,134 available, and COVID-19 patients were using 757 ventilators of the 3,256 available. Complete data is available here.

IDPH Assistance on Testing Supplies
The Illinois Department of Public Health is encouraging hospitals to ramp up their COVID-19 testing capacity and is offering to assist hospitals source and obtain supplies for in-house testing. Requests for testing supplies can be submitted to IDPH using the following form (scroll down the form to fill out the COVID-19 section): https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/23f8f4130df043568f2e92169b8cda40. For more information, contact Molly Jo Lamb, Deputy Director, Office of Health Protection at IDPH at 217-524-2555 or molly.lamb@illinois.gov

IDPH has updated its website with information on COVID-19 testing sites across the state.
New Guidance from CMS on Re-Opening Facilities for Non-COVID Care/Nursing Home Reporting

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued guidance on re-opening facilities to provide non-emergent non-COVID-19 healthcare. These recommendations apply if states or regions have passed the White House Gating Criteria announced last week. CMS notes these recommendations are the first in a series to guide healthcare systems and facilities as they consider resuming in-person care for non-COVID-19 patients in regions with low incidence of COVID-19 disease. See CMS’ release.

CMS also announced new regulatory requirements for nursing homes to inform residents, their families and representatives of COVID-19 cases in their facilities. Nursing homes must report cases of COVID-19 directly to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The requirement augments longstanding requirements for reporting infectious disease to state and local health departments.

See IHA’s summary memo on both issues.

New Nursing Home COVID-19 Data Released

IDPH is now reporting data on COVID-19 cases and deaths in nursing homes. Click here to view the data by facilities and county (as of April 19). Data will be updated weekly.

Alternate Housing in Southern Illinois

At the request of the local government, the State has activated a pre-staged alternate housing facility in Jefferson County. Local authorities indicate that a recent spike in positive cases of COVID-19, including more than 17 cases linked to a long-term care facility, will require additional resources to help slow the spread of the virus.

Chicago COVID-19 Disparities Update

At a press conference today, Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot provided an overview of the city’s efforts to reduce and eliminate health disparities, and Chicago Department of Public Health Commissioner Allison Arwady, M.D., gave an update on the city’s COVID-19 data.

To address the disproportionate impact of the coronavirus pandemic on African-American communities, Mayor Lightfoot and the city’s Racial Equity Rapid Response Team (RERRT) announced the team will partner with three community organizations to improve health outcomes in the Austin, Auburn Gresham, and South Shore neighborhoods. The effort will focus on education, prevention, testing and treatment, and supportive services, including targeted ways to engage directly with residents in those communities.

As of April 19, there have been 12,571 cases and 500 deaths in the city. The race-ethnic breakdown of deaths were: 287 Blacks (57%); 83 Latinos (16%); 82 Whites (16%); 23 Asians (5%) and 5 Other (1%), with 20 still under investigation. Nearly 78% of the deaths were people age 60 and older and slightly more than 60% of deaths were males.

Mayor Lightfoot also announced today that the city is implementing new steps to protect essential city workers, including supplying cloth masks for use in work spaces.

COVID-19 Response Best Practices

CMS COVID-19 Stakeholder Calls Tuesday and Wednesday
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will hold several stakeholder engagement calls Tuesday and Wednesday. Interested individuals are encouraged to listen to these calls via webcast as telephone lines are limited.

- Tuesday, April 21: CMS Office Hours from 4:00-5:00pm central. Call-in number: 833-614-0820; Access Code: 3963515. Audio webcast available here.

Recordings and transcripts for all calls are posted on the CMS podcast page.

IHA’s “Going the Distance” Campaign: Submit Your Story
IHA encourages all members to share the stories of your team’s heroic efforts during this unprecedented public health crisis by participating in our “Going the Distance” campaign to ensure the public and legislators see the dedication of hospitals and health systems to serve their patients and communities. This message will be especially powerful during National Nurses Week from May 6-12 and National Hospital Week from May 10-16. Please submit your stories, pictures and videos to Valerie Culver, Assistant Vice President, Corporate Communications and Marketing, at vculver@team-iha.org.

IHA also has been sharing numerous stories on members’ efforts on our Twitter and Facebook pages and website.

COVID-19 Exposures to Cleaners and Disinfectants
An early release of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report indicates that the daily number of cleaner and disinfectant exposures reported nationally to poison centers has increased 20% during the COVID-19 crisis. The Illinois Poison Center reports cleaning product exposures are up 30% in the state compared to same period last year.

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.