April 22, 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
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SUBJECT: IHA COVID-19 Update – April 22, 2020

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

Situational Awareness
The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced 2,049 new COVID-19 cases (the highest one-day total) and 98 additional deaths. IDPH also reported 9,349 tests were performed, the highest one-day number so far. The total number of cases in the state is 35,018 in 95 counties, with 1,565 deaths.

HHS Announces Second Round of CARES Act Funding Distribution
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced how the second wave of CARES Act funds will be allocated to healthcare providers, with distribution to start by the end of this week. Specifically, $20 billion will be generally distributed to Medicare facilities and providers impacted by COVID-19 based on 2018 net patient revenue. Other targeted allocations are for hospitals in COVID-19 high impact areas ($10 billion); rural providers including health clinics and hospitals ($10 billion); Indian Health Service facilities ($400 million); and payments for services rendered to the uninsured (reimbursed at Medicare rates, subject to available funding). Additional, separate funding will be available for skilled nursing facilities, dentists, and providers that solely take Medicaid. For more information, go to HHS’ CARES Act Provider Relief Fund website and see an IHA summary memo.
Data Required as Pre-Requisite for CARES Act Funds

NOTE: Hospitals must provide data to HHS by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time on April 23 as a pre-requisite to receive payment of certain CARES Act funds.

In an email sent on Tuesday, April 21, HHS announced hospitals must report certain data as a pre-requisite for payment of certain CARES Act funds. The email states that the agency will use the data to inform decision-making regarding targeted distributions to hospitals and other facilities that have been particularly affected by the increased burden of caring for those with the coronavirus. The email notes that submitting data does not guarantee eligibility or amount. To submit the required data, hospitals must locate the individualized email sent to their facility on April 21. See an IHA memo for details.

Assistance for Rural Hospitals and Communities

Today, HHS, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), awarded nearly $165 million to combat the COVID-19 pandemic in rural communities. These investments will support 1,779 small rural hospitals and provide additional funding to 14 HRSA-funded Telehealth Resource Centers to provide technical assistance on telehealth to help rural and underserved areas combat COVID-19. IDPH was awarded more than $5.5 million for Illinois’ Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program.

CMS Issues Additional Blanket Waivers

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued additional blanket waivers related to care for patients in long-term care hospitals, temporary expansion locations of Rural Health Clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers, staffing and training modifications in Intermediate Care Facilities for individuals with Intellectual disabilities, and the limit for substitute billing arrangements (locum tenens). See IHA’s summary memo and the list of all CMS blanket waivers issued to date.

Testing and PPE Update

Governor J.B. Pritzker announced two new drive through testing sites—one now operational at the Chicago Premium Outlet mall in Aurora and another opening Friday at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Rockford. When the Rockford site opens, the state will have five drive through sites that can process a total of 2,900 tests daily. A physician order is not required to be tested at any of the sites.

The Governor also reviewed personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies distributed by the state so far: 7.7 million surgical masks, nearly 1.7 million N95 masks, over 30,000 gowns, over 6.4 million gloves and over 350,000 face shields. The Governor said additional supplies will be arriving in the coming days and weeks: 25.5 million N95 and KN95 masks, 25 million surgical and general medical masks, 14 million gloves, 8.4 million gowns and coveralls, and 7.5 million face shields and goggles.

New Toolkit on Maximizing Workforce Flexibilities During COVID-19 Crisis

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response (ASPR) released a new toolkit to help state and local healthcare decision makers maximize workforce flexibilities when confronting COVID-19 in their communities. The toolkit includes a full suite of resources to maximize responsiveness based on state and local needs.

FDA Recommendations on Serological Tests

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a letter to healthcare providers recommending that they continue to use serological tests intended to detect antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 to help identify people who may have been exposed to the virus or have recovered from the COVID-19 infection.
Healthcare providers should be aware of the limitations of the tests and the risks to patients and the community if serological test results are used as the sole basis to diagnose COVID-19. Read more here.

FBI Warning on Counterfeit PPE
The Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Minneapolis Division, in coordination with the Office of the Private Sector, Criminal Investigation Division and 3M, released a liaison information report identifying indicators of fraudulent 3M PPE. The document has photos showing ways to identify counterfeit PPE.

ONC Delays Cures Act Final Rule Implementation
Today, the Office of the National Coordinator for Health (ONC) announced that it is temporarily delaying enforcement of parts of its Cures Act Final Rule for three to six months because of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Hospitals and healthcare providers had concerns complying with these rules, which included admissions, discharge and transfer data-feed requirements, due to overwhelming burdens from the pandemic. See the ONC statement for more details.

Safeguarding the Healthcare and Public Health Infrastructure – Webinar Series Starts Friday
The COVID-19 pandemic highlights how critical it is to safeguard our Healthcare and Public Health (HPH) infrastructure. InfraGardNCR, the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security and HHS are partnering to inform the private sector, state and local government first responders, and public healthcare professionals of potential increased threats to HPH facilities. This partnership will host a webinar series exploring physical security challenges. The series starts Friday, April 24, at 12 p.m. CDT with “Protecting Our Frontline Health Facilities from Evolving Security Threats during COVID-19.” Pre-registration is required for this complimentary program.

IDPH EMS Webinar Thursday
IDPH will host a COVID-19 Update for EMS webinar on April 23 at 3:30 p.m. This presentation will provide updates as it relates to care, transport, and infection control practices for EMS. Registration is required.

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