April 23, 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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Keneatha Johnson, Director, Quality, Safety, and Health Policy

SUBJECT: IHA COVID-19 Update – April 23, 2020

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

Situational Awareness
The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today announced 1,826 new COVID-19 cases and 123 deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 36,934 in 96 counties, with a total of 1,688 deaths.

Elective Surgeries to be Conditionally Allowed Starting May 1
Stay-At-Home to Extend Through May 30
This afternoon, Governor J.B. Pritzker announced that a modified Stay-At-Home order will go into effect on May 1 extending the order through May. As part of the modified order, certain elective surgeries for non-life-threatening conditions will be allowed at hospitals and surgi-centers, under certain conditions, starting May 1.

As part of efforts to urge the Pritzker administration to allow postponed elective surgeries to resume, IHA this week initiated two conference calls with the administration and many hospital leaders throughout the state to press the importance of resuming postponed surgeries and non-emergent surgeries and procedures for the health and well-being of patients. Those calls were productive, and we thank the leaders who participated in the calls and delivered key information from the field to the
administration about the extraordinary capabilities hospitals have already demonstrated to safely conduct non-emergent surgeries and procedures, while caring for COVID-19 patients.

The valuable experience hospitals have gained in the last two months in caring for COVID and non-COVID patients helped IHA make the case to the administration that our members are in a position to now safely expand the critical healthcare services provided to patients during this crisis, while also planning for greater increases in COVID-19 cases.

Over the last 24 hours, IHA has been in conversations with IDPH and the Governor’s Office regarding the conditions under which these services might begin. We expect IDPH will be issuing guidance early next week on specific criteria that facilities will need to meet. To that end, IHA’s Executive Committee last night engaged in a special call to develop recommendations to IDPH. IHA is urging appropriate flexibility for hospitals to make medical decisions that are in the best interests of their patients – and the care they need – within reasonable parameters.

In our discussions with IDPH, we continue to raise concerns about certain prescriptive pre-conditions that we believe could hinder access to care for patients needing these elective services, such as restrictive surge capacity metrics and a defined list of procedures that can and cannot be performed. Discussions on these critical points will continue in the coming days in an effort to reach a mutually satisfactory outcome with the Pritzker administration and IDPH.

**House Passes COVID-19 Package to Help Hospitals, Small Businesses**

Late this afternoon, the U.S. House approved and sent to the President a $484 billion [bill](https://www.templars.com/) that includes $75 billion to assist hospitals and other providers with expenses and lost revenues related to COVID-19. The [new funding for hospitals](https://www.templars.com/) is in addition to the $100 billion previously approved in the CARES Act. The bill also provides $25 billion to expand COVID-19 testing, scale up laboratory capacity and trace contacts. The President has signaled he will sign the bill.

**Data Submission Deadline Extended for CARES Funding**

Today, the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a deadline extension to submit data required to inform distribution of CARES Act funds. Hospitals now must provide data to HHS by 12 p.m. Pacific Time on Saturday, April 25 as a pre-requisite to receive certain CARES Act funds. See [IHA’s memo](https://www.templars.com/) for details.

**EMResource to Submit Illinois Hospitals’ Data to HHS**

Starting Friday, April 24, the EMResource vendor Juvare will submit required HHS data on behalf of all Illinois hospitals. EMResource will now include added elements that meet COVID-19-related information requirements outlined in recent letters from Vice President Mike Pence and HHS Secretary Alex Azar. IDPH will also submit required test information on behalf of hospital and reference laboratories that have implemented electronic laboratory reporting. See [IDPH’s notice](https://www.templars.com/) for details.

**Two Chicago COVID-19 Tele-Town Halls Saturday**

The city of Chicago's [Racial Equity Rapid Response Team (RERRT)](https://www.templars.com/) is partnering with local community organizations and will host tele-town halls to provide targeted information and receive input from residents in communities most heavily impacted by COVID-19. The three communities identified for initial engagement are Austin, Auburn Gresham, and South Shore. This weekend’s town halls will be streamed live through each organization’s social media platforms.

- **Saturday, April 25: 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.** Greater Auburn Gresham DC (@gagdcchicago)
- **Saturday, April 25: 1-2:30 p.m.** Austin Coming Together (@act.chicago)
New Chicago Isolation Housing Central Intake Form
The Chicago Dept. of Public Health (CDPH) has released a new isolation housing central intake form and website. The housing is provided free of charge for people with COVID-19 who are unable to safely self-isolate in their own homes. More details are in a CDPH health alert.

Cook County Respite Housing for Healthcare Workers, First Responders, Correctional Officers
Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, joined by the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH), Cook County Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security (EMRS) and area first responders announced the availability of respite housing for suburban Cook County healthcare professionals, first responders and correctional officers. Hotel rooms for the respite housing program were secured by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. EMRS coordinated planning and logistics for the program. CDPH is overseeing implementation. See a press release for more information.

Telehealth Toolkit for Medicaid and CHIP
Today, the Trump Administration released a new toolkit for states to help accelerate adoption of broader telehealth coverage policies in the Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Programs (CHIP) during the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

COVID-19 Telemedicine Webinar Friday
The University of Chicago Medicine Comer Children’s Hospital is offering a webinar—Telemedicine: What to Expect During COVID-19 and Beyond—Friday, April 24 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. CDT. CMEs are available for physicians. Registration is required. Details are available here.

Vetted Non-Traditional PPE Suppliers
The Association for Health Care Resource & Materials Management (AHRMM) of the American Hospital Association has developed a webpage containing information on vetted non-traditional suppliers offering personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies and services.

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