April 24, 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 24, 2020

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

Situational Awareness
The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today announced 2,724 new COVID-19 cases, the highest number of cases in a 24-hour period to date, and 108 deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 39,659 in 96 counties, with a total of 1,795 deaths.

Testing Update
At his daily press briefing, Governor J.B. Pritzker announced that for the first time the state has surpassed the goal of processing 10,000 test kits a day conducting 16,124 tests. He noted that there are 112 public COVID-19 testing sites throughout the state, with sites in every one of IDPH’s 11 regions, and that many healthcare providers conduct tests for their patients. The Governor said that the high number of positive cases reported today was due to the increased testing capability and processing.

IDPH has issued updated testing guidance reflecting the announcement that anyone who is experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms can be tested without a doctor’s order. Testing is available for those with or without symptoms who work in a healthcare or correctional facility and who serve as essential workers and first responders. A list of testing sites is available on the state’s Coronavirus website.
New Expanded Eligibility for PPP Loans
According to an interim final rule released today from the Small Business Administration (SBA), certain government-owned hospitals are eligible to apply for potentially forgivable loans under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). IHA urges eligible hospitals to apply quickly, as funds will likely be exhausted in the near future.

Specifically, the new guidance states on pages 6 and 7: “A hospital that is otherwise eligible to receive a PPP loan as a business concern or nonprofit organization (described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code) shall not be rendered ineligible for a PPP loan due to ownership by a state or local government if the hospital receives less than 50% of its funding from state or local government sources, exclusive of Medicaid.”

More details are available in an IHA memo.

President Signs Bill with $75 Billion for Hospitals, Providers
President Trump today signed the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Health Care Enhancement Act, a $484 billion bill which provides an additional $75 billion to assist hospitals and other providers with expenses and lost revenues related to COVID-19. The new funding for hospitals is in addition to the $100 billion previously approved in the CARES Act. The package also provides $25 billion to expand COVID-19 testing, scale up laboratory capacity and trace contacts. A summary of the legislation’s PPP increase is available here.

Reminder re: Data Submission for CARES Act Funding
Reminder: Hospitals must provide data as a required pre-requisite to inform future distributions of CARES Act funds to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by 12 p.m. Pacific Time on Saturday, April 25. See IHA’s memo for details.

HHS Releases CARES Act General Funding Formula
HHS released the formula providers can use to estimate their total general revenue distribution from the CARES Act:

\[(\text{Individual Provider Revenues} / \$2.5 \text{ Trillion}) \times \$50 \text{ Billion} = \text{Expected Combined General Distribution}\]

HHS was scheduled to begin distributing payments from the remaining $20 billion of the $50 billion general allocation today. To estimate your hospital’s remaining payment, subtract your first tranche payment from your expected combined general distribution. The payments will again arrive via Optum Bank with “HHSPAYMENT” as the payment description. All relief payments are made to provider billing organizations based on their Taxpayer Identification Numbers (TINs).

As a reminder, all providers are required under the Terms and Conditions to submit revenue information to the provider portal for verification. Additionally, within 30 days of receiving the payment, providers must sign an attestation confirming receipt of the funds and agreeing to the terms and conditions of payment. Terms and conditions, the CARES Act Provider Relief Fund Payment Attestation Portal, and additional information can be found here. Not returning the payment within 30 days of receipt will be viewed as acceptance of the Terms and Conditions. For more information on additional CARES Act funds, see IHA’s memo.
Judge Grants Workers’ Comp Emergency Rule TRO
A judge in Sangamon County has granted a request for a temporary restraining order (TRO) against an emergency rule that had been approved last week by the Workers’ Compensation Commission. The emergency rule creates a “rebuttable presumption” that any essential worker who becomes ill from COVID-19 caught the virus at work. Under the TRO, employers whose workers filed under the emergency rules have temporary reprieve until the next court hearing. The Illinois Manufacturers’ Association and the Retail Merchants Association are challenging the rule, arguing that the Commission exceeded its authority. Briefs in the case are due April 30, with a hearing scheduled for May 4.

IHHs Delayed Until January 2021
The Illinois Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services issued a provider notice today delaying the implementation of the Integrated Health Home (IHH) program to Jan. 1, 2021. The IHH program is designed to deliver coordinated care to Medicaid beneficiaries, addressing medical, behavioral health and social service needs. The notice cited the COVID-19 crisis as the cause for the delay.

Illinois Poison Center Receives COVID-19 Funding
As part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration made 52 awards, representing all 55 poison centers nationwide. The Illinois Poison Center was awarded $196,904, the second largest award in the nation.

FDA Reminder on Risks with Hydroxychloroquine and Chloroquine
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a safety communication today reminding healthcare professionals of the risks associated with the use of hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine, which include serious and potentially life-threatening heart rhythm problems. The FDA says that hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine have not been shown to be safe and effective for treating or preventing COVID-19 and the drugs are currently being studied in clinical trials.

New National Report on Nursing Home Deaths from COVID-19
Data compiled by the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) shows that more than 10,000 residents and staff in long-term care facilities across the U.S. have died from COVID-19 infections. KFF notes that this number is lower than the actual deaths because not all states are reporting this data. In Illinois, 5% of the state’s cases and 18% of deaths are in long-term care facilities (as of April 23). Some states are experiencing COVID-19 death rates in long-term care facilities greater than 50%.

NAMI Support Groups for Healthcare Workers
National Alliance on Mental Illinois (NAMI) Chicago is offering confidential support groups for healthcare workers during the COVID-19 crisis. More information on meeting times and how to register are available in a flyer.

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