April 6, 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 6, 2020

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

Situational Awareness
The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today announced 1,006 new cases and 33 additional deaths, bringing the total number of cases statewide to 12,262 in 73 counties and deaths to 307. IDPH Director Ngozi Ezike, M.D. noted that in 70% of the COVID-19 deaths in the state, three common co-morbidities existed—hypertension, diabetes and heart disease. She pleaded with Illinoisans to stay home, especially tomorrow, with warm temperatures expected throughout the state, and later in the week for religious observances (Passover and Easter). Ezike and Governor Pritzker are encouraging virtual celebrations using online technologies.

PPE Update
Governor Pritzker today outlined the protective personal protective equipment (PPE) the state has received from the federal Strategic National Stockpile:

- 367,795 N95 masks;
- 1,141,000 surgical masks;
- 693,000 gloves;
- 174,000 face shields;
- 142,000 surgical gowns; and
- 4,000 coveralls.
The Governor noted the following statewide PPE 10-day burn rate for hospitals and long-term care facilities (estimated):

- 1.5 million N95 masks;
- 25 million gloves;
- 4.4 million gowns; and
- 700,000 surgical masks.

The burn-rate figures do not include PPE projections for alternate care facilities. The Governor says the state is continuing to find ways to obtain PPE from vendors given the lack of support and supplies from the federal government.

**Mayor Lightfoot: COVID-19 Disparities in Chicago a "Public Health Red Alarm"**

African Americans make up more than half of Chicago’s COVID-19 cases and more than 70% of the deaths from the virus, even though they are 30% of the city’s population, according to Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) Commissioner Dr. Allison Arwady. Mayor Lori Lightfoot this afternoon announced a series of steps that the city is taking to address what she calls a “public health red alarm”, including:

- CDPH has signed a public health order enhancing medical data-sharing requirements for all acute care and long-term hospitals, in order to better support the city’s ability to track COVID-19 and support the most impacted individuals and communities. CDPH will release updated demographic data daily during the COVID-19 pandemic at Chicago.gov/coronavirus.
- A task force led by West Side United will activate networks and a racial equity rapid response team to focus resources and outreach in communities hardest hit by COVID-19.
- The city will closely monitor CTA bus ridership along all routes and deploy large buses or extra buses to allow for social distancing during transit.
- The city will improve coordination and socialization of health guidance for essential businesses, such as grocery and corner stores, to promote social distancing and discourage congregating.

For more details, see the Mayor’s press release.

**Updated IHA Federal Funding Resource Documents**

IHA has updated its Federal Funding Opportunities Resource Document. The document lists federal resources for which hospitals and health systems may apply to assist with increased costs and financial losses due to the novel coronavirus pandemic. Updates include: new guidance on the loan program through the Small Business Administration; new information from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services on the Medicare Accelerated Payment program; and an overview of an emergency $200 million Telehealth Program to support connected care services and devices. The Federal Funding Opportunities Resource Document, along with IHA’s companion document, Automatic Federal Fiscal Relief Resource Document, is available on IHA’s dedicated COVID-19 webpage.

**Upcoming COVID-19 Informational Programs**

Project ECHO is holding “COVID-19: Clinical Rounds—A Peer-to-Peer Virtual Community of Practice” on Tuesday, April 7 from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. CDT. The program is complimentary and registration information is available here.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will hold a call on Wednesday, April 8 at 3 p.m. CDT to provide an update on the COVID-19 response for rural stakeholders and communities. To submit questions in advance, e-mail ruralhealth@cdc.gov with "Rural Health Update 4/8” in the subject line. Registration is required.
FDA COVID-19 Hotline
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has developed an industry hotline for COVID-19 diagnostic tests and shortages. The toll free number—888-INFO-FDA (choose option*)—can be used for questions on all personal protective equipment, including masks and respirators. The FDA webpage includes email addresses for shortages and diagnostic tests.

CDC Launches Weekly Surveillance Summary
The CDC has developed a weekly surveillance summary of U.S. COVID-19 activity called COVIDView. The latest release of data, as of April 4, is available here.

Message from the Consulate of Mexico in Chicago
The Consulate of Mexico in Chicago is encouraging Mexican nationals who have COVID-19 related questions or concerns to contact them for assistance by:

- Telephone: 312-738-2383; Emergency number: 888-755-5511 (if diagnosed with COVID-19 or a family member dies from COVID-19); or
- Email: conchicago@sre.gob.mx.

A flyer from the consulate has information about the Illinois stay-at-home order in Spanish.

IHA Advocacy Day, Quality Advocacy Showcase Canceled
With the active spread of COVID-19 in Illinois and the state’s stay-at-home order in place until April 30, IHA has canceled our two advocacy events in Springfield this month: IHA State Advocacy Day on April 29 and the IHA Quality Advocacy Showcase on April 30. During this critical time, members are urged to stay in contact with your state legislators to let them know how your hospital is preparing for and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and to make them aware of the issues and challenges you are facing. While it is not clear yet when the General Assembly will go back into session, IHA is working on a COVID-19 relief package for hospitals and health systems, including Medicaid funding and other support state lawmakers will be asked to enact. More information is available in an IHA memo.

IDPH Email Portal for Receiving Hospital Questions, Comments, Ideas
To send questions, comments or ideas to IDPH, email 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 or email dph.siren@illinois.gov

Resources
- IDPH webpage on COVID-19
- Illinois COIVD-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