April 9, 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 9, 2020

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

Situational Awareness
The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today announced 1,344 new COVID-19 cases and 66 deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 16,422 in 81 counties, with a total of 528 deaths.

Bending the Curve
Governor J.B. Pritzker noted today at his daily press briefing that the rate of COVID-19 cases is “looking less and less exponential. This indicates to us that we are, in fact, bending the curve. There is even some evidence that we may be moving toward a flatter curve. But we need to keep watching the data on a daily basis.” The Governor also said it is unlikely that the state’s stay-at-home order will be lifted before April 30.

To address access to COVID-19 testing in African American neighborhoods, the Governor said the state is working on establishing a drive-through testing site in the south suburbs and will be placing rapid testing machines and kits in African American neighborhoods.
New IHA Resource on Medicaid/CHIP Disaster Relief Flexibilities
IHA has issued a resource document on disaster relief flexibilities for Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The document provides an overview of federal disaster-related flexibilities, as well as links to recent actions under each authority by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) to address the COVID-19 public health emergency.

FEMA Supply Chain Stabilization
The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA’s) Supply Chain Task Force has issued an advisory on supply chain stabilization during the COVID-19 pandemic. The advisory discusses the application of its four-prong medical supply chain approach: preservation, acceleration, expansion, and allocation.

NIH Trial on Hydroxychloroquine
The National Institutes of Health has begun a clinical trial evaluating the safety and effectiveness of hydroxychloroquine for the treatment of hospitalized adults with COVID-19. The first participants are now enrolled in the trial at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville. NIH hopes to enroll more than 500 participants in the study. Read more here.

CDC Report Looks at COVID-19 Clusters in Chicago
A funeral and a birthday party that spurred a cluster of COVID-19 cases in Chicago are the focus of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report released on Wednesday. The Chicago Department of Public Health investigated the cluster of 16 confirmed or probable cases, which included three deaths, between two extended family gatherings. A close family friend who had traveled out of state and was experiencing mild respiratory symptoms likely began the chain of transmission. The individual was diagnosed with COVID-19 as part of the epidemiologic investigation. During both events, the individual embraced others and shared food from common serving dishes. The CDC report stressed the importance of adhering to social distancing, avoiding gatherings and following stay-at-home orders.

Cook County Medical Examiner Opening Surge Center
The Cook County Medical Examiner’s Office announced it is opening a surge center to expand capacity and ease overcrowding at hospital morgues due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The office released its surge center protocols and trailer inventory form for hospitals. The 66,000-square foot refrigerated warehouse will have the capacity to hold more than 2,000 decedents.

HFS Cancels IHH April 14 Webinar
Today, the Illinois Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services announced that the Medicaid Integrated Health Home (IHH) Town Hall webinar scheduled for April 14 is cancelled. The next webinar is scheduled for May 13. See the HFS provider notice for more details.

NGS Delays TPE Medical Reviews
Today, National Government Services (NGS) announced it is pausing Targeted Probe and Educate (TPE) Medical Reviews. NGS did not provide additional clarity on when or how TPE reviews will resume. NGS is contacting providers to let them know claims have been released and there is no need to respond to an additional development request for medical records.
Effective March 1, 2020, claims that were auto-denied for nonresponse or late response to additional development requests will be reversed and allowed for payment unless an appeal has already been filed. If an appeal has already been filed, it will follow the normal appeals process. Questions can be directed to j6probeandeducate@anthem.com for jurisdiction Part A questions, and J6Bprobeandeducate@anthem.com for jurisdiction 6 Part B questions.

**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 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