



February 18, 2021

**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 – February 18, 2021

Following is a brief recap of the most recent top developments.

Situational Awareness

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced today 1,966 new confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases and 72 deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 1,168,683 with a total of 20,129 deaths. IDPH says that in the past 24 hours, 67,542 test specimens have been processed, with a positivity rate of 2.9%. The preliminary 7-day statewide positivity rate for *cases* as a percent of total tests from Feb. 11-17 is 2.7%, and the seven-day *test* positivity rate is 3.3%. Statewide COVID-19 hospitalizations in the past 24 hours decreased from 1,719 patients to 1,655 patients. Of that figure, 386 patients were in the ICU, with 184 patients on ventilators.

IDPH – Hospital Vaccine POD Questionnaire

IDPH is planning to publicly post information about hospital-based COVID-19 vaccine points of dispensing (PODs). To ensure that the information is accurate, IDPH today launched a questionnaire in EMResource. Hospitals in all 11 Regions are asked to complete the questionnaire weekly by 10 a.m. Friday. The questionnaire is specific to the following week and should be completed regardless of whether your hospital will have a POD in operation that week. Questions include: if a vaccination site will be open next week; is the site open to the public; which priority populations the site is open to; website/appointment registration links; and weekly capacity. Information from the questionnaire will be uploaded on the IDPH COVID-19 website under Vaccination Locations. (IHA contact: Keneatha Johnson at kjohnson@team-iha.org; IDPH contact: Dan Lee at daniel.lee@illinois.gov)

IDPH and CDPH Updates on Vaccine Delivery Delays Due to Weather

On Tuesday, the state announced that it was notified by the federal government that COVID-19 vaccine delivery across the entire country is being delayed due to adverse weather and road conditions. To help offset delayed vaccine deliveries, the state proactively ordered vaccine to be delivered to its Strategic National Stockpile site in anticipation of adverse weather. The state is distributing that vaccine to many providers around the state, as weather permits, to support vaccination operations. While this week's expected allocation to Illinois from the federal government was approximately 365,000 doses, the state has received only about 55,000 doses so far. IDPH is in contact with the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC) and other federal agencies to understand the logistical challenges and see if there is anything Illinois can do to expedite getting vaccine.

Today, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued an update from CDC about COVID-19 vaccine shipment delays due to ongoing winter storm conditions. Moderna vaccines were not shipped on Monday or Tuesday and would most likely not ship Wednesday, due to adverse weather conditions. Despite working with McKesson and shipping partners to resume operations, CDC anticipates a significant back log of orders for distribution once operations resume and every effort will be made to catch up as soon as possible while safely delivering the vaccines. Pfizer vaccines were not shipped out on Monday, due to weather conditions. A limited number of Pfizer vaccine shipments were processed Tuesday and a similar plan was in effect for Wednesday. CDC stated "there is an expectation that delays related to this historic weather event will continue through this week".

State Adds Vaccination Sites

On Wednesday, Governor Pritzker [announced](#) the launch of three state-supported mass vaccination sites in southern and central Illinois. Two vaccination sites will operate in Carbondale and one site in Springfield. The state will also deploy additional Illinois National Guard teams to stand up mobile sites in Sangamon and Jackson Counties. At full capacity, pending increases in federal vaccine shipments, the mass vaccination sites can administer a combined 2,700 doses daily with the new mobile teams providing an additional 1,600 daily doses. The Governor has activated additional members of the Illinois National Guard to assist the Jackson County Health Department and the Sangamon County Department of Public Health to stand up the vaccination sites and support the mobile vaccination sites. The county health departments will also assist with staffing these sites.

FEMA Funds Available for COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is providing supplemental funding through the public assistance (PA) [program](#) covering eligible work and costs necessary for the mass distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines. The FEMA PA program provides expedited funding, covering 50% of estimated costs when applications are accepted. FEMA funding may be used to cover eligible work and costs such as personal protective equipment, costs associated with leasing space for storage and/or administration of vaccines, onsite infection control measures, and vaccine storage and transportation equipment (note, this list is not exhaustive). Application details are available [here](#), and an FAQ document is available [here](#). Providers must be registered with the [Illinois Emergency Management Agency](#) before submitting an expedited funding application. Please direct questions to Joseph Dragoo, Public Assistance Program Delivery Manager with the Department of Homeland Security/FEMA, at 540-326-6231 or joseph.dragoo@fema.dhs.gov.

National COVID-19 Vaccine Forum Next Week

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is organizing a virtual [National Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine](#) for February 22-24 that will bring together practitioners who are engaged in vaccinating communities across the nation. The Forum aims to promote the most effective strategies to build trust and confidence in COVID-19 vaccines; use data to optimize vaccine implementation; and provide practical information for increasing vaccine access in communities, especially for persons at increased risk of COVID-19 and those who may face barriers to vaccination. [Click here](#) to register.

Resources

- [IDPH COVID-19 webpage](#) and [Coronavirus.illinois.gov](https://www.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.