



July 27, 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 – July 27, 2020

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

Situational Awareness

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced today 1,231 new COVID-19 cases and 18 deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 172,655 in 102 counties, with a total of 7,416 deaths. IDPH says that in the past 24 hours, 30,567 test specimens have been processed, with a positivity rate of 4.0%. The preliminary seven-day statewide positivity rate from July 20 to July 26 is 3.8%. Statewide COVID-19 hospitalizations in the past 24 hours increased from 1,394 patients to 1,417 patients. Of that figure, 350 patients were in the ICU, with 124 patients on ventilators.

Governor Issues New Disaster Proclamation, Executive Orders, Extends Waivers

Late Friday (July 24), Governor J.B. Pritzker issued a new 30-day COVID-19 disaster proclamation, Executive Order #47 (on pre-K-12 schools reopening) and Executive Order #48 (reissuing many existing executive orders and extending them to Aug. 22). The reissued Executive Orders include:

- #9, requiring all commercial health insurers regulated by the Department of Insurance to cover clinically appropriate, medically necessary telehealth services and reimburse providers at the same rate as in-person visits and prohibiting them from imposing any cost-sharing for in-network providers unless a deductible has not been met for a high-deductible health plan;
- #23, giving the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation flexibility to waive certain requirements to increase the number of licensed professionals responding to the disaster; and
- #26, extending many waivers from the Hospital Licensing Act to increase hospital capacity.

HHS Renews Public Health Emergency Declaration

Last Thursday (July 23), U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar *signed* a 90-day extension of the COVID-19 public health emergency declaration, renewing critical health system funding and regulatory relief until late October. Among the policies linked to the declaration are the 20% Medicare add-on payment for COVID-19-positive inpatient admissions, telehealth flexibilities, and a 6.2% increase in the Medicaid federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP).

Four Illinois Counties at Warning Level for COVID-19

IDPH *says* four counties – Adams, LaSalle, Peoria and Randolph -- are considered to be at a warning level for COVID-19. These counties saw outbreaks associated with business and risky behavior, including:

- Adams County: larger social events, health care exposure, travel to hotspots including those in neighboring Missouri and Iowa, places of worship, and youth sports.
- LaSalle County: large family and social gatherings, increase in cases among people younger than 29 years, younger people visiting bars and attending larger social events, and inconsistencies with masking requirements.
- Peoria County: increases in cases among people younger than 29 years, large gatherings including 4th of July parties, and people traveling to Florida, Iowa, Texas, and Wisconsin.
- Randolph County: congregate settings, numerous bars not complying with distancing and masking, a large party with more than 200 people, and among households.

A map and information on each Illinois county's status can be found on the [*IDPH website*](#).

New CDC Findings on COVID-19 for Young People, Those with Underlying Conditions

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new findings about COVID-19 in Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports (MMWRs). In a [*July 24 MMWR*](#), CDC said a multistate survey of symptomatic adults with a positive outpatient COVID-19 test result found that 35% had not returned to their usual state of health when interviewed 2–3 weeks after testing. Among persons aged 18–34 years with no chronic medical conditions, one in five had not returned to their usual state of health. COVID-19 can result in prolonged illness, even among young adults without underlying chronic medical conditions.

In a separate [*July 24 MMWR*](#), CDC indicates older adults and those with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart disease, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and obesity are at higher risk for severe COVID-19–associated illness. CDC estimates the prevalence of any of these five underlying medical conditions among U.S. adults is 47.2% in 3,142 counties, with a higher prevalence in more rural counties.

COCA Call on COVID-19 and Diabetes Tuesday

CDC will hold a Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) call on [*COVID-19 and diabetes*](#) on Tuesday, July 28 at 1 p.m. CDT. Presenters will focus on COVID-19 complications in people with diabetes and the importance of diabetes prevention, management, and support.

Webinar Link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1615367357>

Dial In: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666

iPhone one-tap: +16692545252, 1615367357# or +16468287666, 1615367357#

Webinar ID: 161 536 7357

CDC COVID-19 Response Webinar: Promising Practices in Health Equity

The webinar, live on Zoom, will be held Wednesday, July 29 at 2 p.m. CDT. Presenters include: Aletha Maybank, M.D., M.P.H., Chief Health Equity Officer, Vice President, American Medical Association; David Saunder, Office Health Equity Director, Pennsylvania Department of Health; and James E. Bloyd, M.P.H., Regional Health Office, Cook County Department of Public Health. Register [*here*](#).

HHS/ASPR COVID-19 Clinical Rounds This Week

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response will hold interactive virtual learning sessions to create a peer-to-peer learning network where clinicians

from the U.S. and abroad who have experience treating patients with COVID-19 share their challenges and successes. Sessions include:

Critical Care: Lifesaving Treatment and Clinical Operations

Tuesday, July 28, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. CDT

This resource webinar is intended for consultant physicians involved in critical care practice, fellows, residents, pharmacists, nursing staff, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, respiratory therapists, and allied health staff. [Click here](#) to register.

Emergency Department: Patient Care and Clinical Operations

Thursday, July 30, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. CDT

Join presenters to discuss emergency management resources and information that can be utilized to improve effective hospital and emergency department function during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Click here](#) to register.

If you miss a session, find the recordings on the [University of New Mexico's Project ECHO website](#). [Click here](#) to join the HHS/ASPR COVID-19 Clinical Rounds email list.

Pandemic Telehealth Lessons Learned

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and ASPR TRACIE will host a webinar, "[Use of Telemedicine in Alternate Care Sites](#)," on Tuesday, July 28 at 1 p.m. CDT. Speakers will discuss operations, management, and lessons learned from using telemedicine in Alternate Care Sites during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide additional hospital surge capacity and capability. Register [here](#).

Partnership for a Connected Illinois (BroadbandIllinois.org) will hold a virtual forum, "Envisioning the Future of Telehealth: Policies to Ensure a Continuum of Care for MH and SUD Patients," on Wednesday, July 29 at 12 p.m. CDT. Prompted by the pandemic, telehealth restrictions were temporarily lifted and service providers across the country launched a full scale, unplanned pilot in service delivery via telehealth. Speakers will discuss how the lessons of these past few months must inform policies that will determine the future of telehealth. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

Hospital Policies for Support Persons of IDD Patients

On Tuesday, July 28 at 1 p.m. the University of Illinois at Chicago, as part of its COVID-19 webinar series, is hosting "[Hospitalized People with IDD Need their Caregivers: They Aren't Visitors](#)". This presentation will provide an overview on the need to implement hospital visitation policies for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD). Register [here](#).

Federal Reserve FAQs for Non-Profit Loan Options

The Federal Reserve has released a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document providing additional information on the expanded loan Main Street Lending Program options for non-profit organizations, including hospitals. The expanded options were [announced](#) to provide greater access to credit for 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(19) nonprofit organizations.

Resources

- [IDPH COVID-19 webpage](#) and [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-ih.org