July 8, 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 8, 2020

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

Situational Awareness
The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced today 980 new COVID-19 cases and 36 deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 149,432 in 102 counties, with a total of 7,099 deaths. IDPH says that in the past 24 hours, 32,742 test specimens have been processed, with a positivity rate of 2.99%. The preliminary seven-day statewide positivity rate from July 1 to July 7 is 2.6%. Statewide COVID-19 hospitalizations in the past 24 hours increased from 1,385 patients to 1,518 patients. Of that figure, 331 patients were in the ICU, with 151 patients on ventilators.

During a visit to a mobile testing site at Coles Elementary School in Chicago this afternoon, Governor J.B. Pritzker announced the expansion of the state’s mobile testing operation with twelve COVID-19 testing teams. The teams will offer mobile testing to residents in hard-hit communities and visit facilities like homeless services centers and nursing homes. The mobile testing sites offer drive-through and walk-up tests free of charge to any Illinois resident who wants to be tested. In addition to the site operating at Coles Elementary, the remaining testing sites are located in Rock Island, Cicero, Brighton Park, Springfield, and East St. Louis.

SBA and Treasury Department Release PPP Loan Data
On Monday, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), in consultation with the Treasury Dept. yesterday released data on the loans made under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) – including to hospitals across Illinois and the country. The data release also includes overall statistics regarding
dollars lent per state, loan amounts, top lenders, and distribution by industry. See the data and press release. According to an SBA report, as of June 30, more than 500,000 loans totaling $67.3 billion have been approved for the health care and social assistance sector, and more than 200,000 loans totaling almost $22.5 billion to businesses in Illinois. Over the weekend, President Trump signed legislation that had been passed by Congress last week to extend the application period for the remaining $130 billion in PPP funds to August 8.

**AHA Responds to Wall Street Journal Article on COVID-19 Infections in Hospitals**

In a blog post, Robyn Begley, DNP, R.N., senior vice president at the American Hospital Association, and chief nursing officer and CEO of the American Organization for Nursing Leadership, responds to a recent article in the Wall Street Journal about COVID-19 infections in hospitals. Begley points out that the Journal “leaves out many of the aggressive steps hospitals and health systems have successfully put in place to keep patients safe from the virus and treat people who have it.” Those steps, taken before and during the pandemic, include:

- Improved treatment of infectious disease and prevention of transmission to others;
- Regular training and re-training of caregivers on proper infection control practices;
- Implementation of an identified set of tools for addressing a global health pandemic – including steps to identify, isolate and treat those who were exposed to the virus;
- Creation of COVID and non-COVID care units, with social distancing in waiting rooms, mask use in common areas and limited entrance and exit points;
- Regular deep-cleaning throughout hospital buildings;
- Restrictions on visitors, in alignment with CDC guidance;
- Creation of drive-through testing sites and treatment clinics in non-traditional locations; and
- Increased use of telemedicine to offer non-COVID patients the care they need – safely, from their own homes.

Begley concludes: “Everyone has a role to play in infection control. That is why everyone is screened before walking through the hospital’s door and caregivers continue to receive regular training. We also need to recognize that today’s hospitals treat the sickest patients and infections can be acquired in many ways unrelated to the care provided by a hospital. Hospitals and health systems will always remain vigilant to the next threat and will continue to take the lead in safeguarding the public against potential threats.”

**Update on Efforts to Develop COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatment**

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, has established a new clinical trials network that aims to enroll thousands of volunteers in large-scale clinical trials testing a variety of investigational vaccines and monoclonal antibodies intended to protect people from COVID-19. The COVID-19 Prevention Trials Network was established by merging four existing NIAID-funded clinical trials networks: the HIV Vaccine Trials Network, based in Seattle; the HIV Prevention Trials Network, based in Durham, N.C.; the Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Consortium, based in Atlanta; and the AIDS Clinical Trials Group, based in Los Angeles. These networks will continue to perform clinical trials for HIV vaccine and prevention and other infectious diseases in addition to their new COVID roles.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Department of Defense (DoD) announced a $1.6 billion agreement with Novavax, Inc. of Gaithersburg, Maryland, to demonstrate commercial-scale manufacturing of the company’s COVID-19 investigational vaccine. By funding this manufacturing effort, the federal government will own the 100 million doses of investigational vaccine expected to result from the demonstration projects. The doses would become available for use in clinical trials or, if the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) grants Emergency Use Authorization or...
licenses the investigational vaccine, the federal government could distribute the doses as part of a COVID-19 vaccination campaign.

HHS and DOD have also reached an agreement with Regeneron, Inc. of Tarrytown, New York, to demonstrate commercial-scale manufacturing of the company’s COVID-19 investigational anti-viral antibody treatment, REGN-COV2. By funding this manufacturing effort, the federal government will own the doses expected to result from the demonstration project - between 70,000 and 300,000 doses - with the initial doses ready as early as end of summer and completed this fall. If the FDA grants Emergency Use Authorization or approves the treatment, the federal government would allocate these doses to treat COVID-19 patients.

**Upcoming NGS Medicare Webinars**
National Government Services (NGS) has several upcoming webinars on the repayment and recoupment process for Medicare advance payments. Medicare Part A hospitals and Part B providers may have requested and received accelerated or advanced payments from Medicare due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These webinars will review the guidelines for repaying these payments and allow for questions from participants.

Part A Webinars (Hospitals):
July 23, 1:00-2:00 p.m. CDT
July 28, 9:00-10:00 a.m. CDT

Part B Webinars (Physician Groups):
July 16, 9:30-10:30 a.m. CDT
August 13, 9:30-10:30 a.m. CDT

Registration is required at [www.ngsmedicare.com](http://www.ngsmedicare.com). Log in to your NGS account (or register as a guest) and click on All Upcoming Education. If you are interested in the Part B webinar, please ensure that you log in as a Part B provider before accessing the Education webpage.

**Complimentary Teletherapy Sessions for Frontline Workers**
The Chicago Psychoanalytic Institute, one of the nation’s leading nonprofit organizations in providing psychoanalytic training and therapy via videoconferencing, continues to offer complimentary teletherapy sessions to frontline workers in Illinois. Called the Frontline Responders program, the Institute is offering, on a pro bono basis, to treat workers enduring or struggling to deal with the challenges they are experiencing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Frontline workers who email FrontlineWork@ChicagoAnalysis.org or call (312) 897-1405 will be promptly put in touch with an appropriate clinician at no charge. Up to eight treatment sessions will be provided through secure HIPPA compliant videoconferencing. This program is available to all COVID-19 frontline workers in Illinois. For more information, see the flyer.

**Resources**
- [IDPH webpage on COVID-19](https://www.idph.state.il.us)
- [Coronavirus.illinois.gov](https://www.coronavirus.illinois.gov)
- [Chicago Department of Public Health COVID-19 webpage](https://www.chicago.gov/health)
- [IHA webpage on COVID-19](https://www.team-iha.org)

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.