June 22, 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 – June 22, 2020

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

Situational Awareness
The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced today 462 new COVID-19 cases and 26 deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 137,224 in 101 counties, with a total of 6,671 deaths. IDPH says that in the past 24 hours, 18,219 test specimens have been processed, with a positivity rate of 2.5%. The preliminary seven-day statewide positivity rate from June 15 to June 21 is 2%. Statewide COVID-19 hospitalizations in the past 24 hours decreased from 1,631 patients to 1,628 patients. Of that figure, 419 patients are in the ICU, with 250 patients on ventilators. IDPH also reported that the statewide recovery rate has improved to 94%.

State, Chicago Moving to Phase 4 Reopening on Friday
In separate announcements today, the state of Illinois and city of Chicago released guidelines for moving to Phase 4 of their reopening plans this Friday, June 26.

Governor J.B. Pritzker says all four regions of the state are currently on track to move into Phase 4 as the state continues to make significant progress in reducing new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, with the average 7-day statewide case positivity
rate falling to just 2.5% as of Saturday. Phase 4 allows for the safe reopening or expansion of several key business segments – such as health and fitness, movies and theater, museums and zoos, and indoor dining at restaurants. Phase 4 also allows for expanded gathering sizes, increasing the limit from 10 in Phase 3, to 50 people or fewer. The expanded gathering limit applies to activities like meetings, events, and funerals.

For more information, see the Governor’s press release and the state’s guidance at Illinois.gov/businessguidelines or https://dceocovid19resources.com/restore-illinois.

Meanwhile, Mayor Lori Lightfoot and the Chicago Department of Public Health announced that Chicago is on track to transition to Phase 4 of the city’s framework this Friday. The city’s guidelines are aligned with the State-issued guidelines, with additional specificity for the city, which has had higher numbers of COVID-19 cases and deaths than other parts of the state. Among the Chicago industries reopening for the first time – with limited capacities and appropriate safeguards – are indoor seating in bars and restaurants; museums and zoos; performance venues; and summer camps/youth activities. See the city’s reopening guidelines.

**Chicago Health Providers Take on Systemic Racism**

Calling systemic racism a public health crisis, three dozen Chicago healthcare organizations – including 18 hospitals and health systems – are pledging to do more to overcome health disparities in minority communities and ensure greater health equity across the city. The organizations issued an open letter to the Chicago community on Friday (June 19), which was Juneteenth, the day commemorating the end of slavery in the U.S.

The organizations committed to take seven action steps to advance their work:

- Re-examining institutional policies with an equity lens and making any policy changes that promote equity and opportunity.
- Improving access to primary and specialty care.
- Continuing to focus on helping communities overcome chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease and asthma.
- Continuing to advocate for investments that create innovative solutions to achieve enduring improvements in access, quality and health outcomes for our communities.
- Continuing their commitment to hiring locally and promoting leaders of color.
- Renewing and expanding each organization’s commitment to providing anti-racism and implicit bias training for physicians, nurses and staff.
- Advocating for increased funding for social needs, social services and programs that promote social justice.

According to a joint press release, the organizations began their work through Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot’s Racial Equity Rapid Response Team, initially joining forces to focus on COVID-19 and its disproportionate impact on minority neighborhoods by making testing more accessible, implementing contact tracing, and increasing distribution of Personal Protective Equipment across the South and West sides. The organizations expanded their work beyond the pandemic in the wake of the deaths of George Floyd, Rayshard Brooks, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and others.
**IDPH Visitation Guidance for LTC Facilities**

The Illinois Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) has issued updated visitation guidance so Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) may allow outdoor visitation for residents when certain conditions are met. Visitations must be limited to two visitors at a time per resident. The maximum number of residents and visitors in the outdoor space at one time is predicated on the size of the outdoor space. The LTCF must ensure that a minimum distancing of six feet is achievable in the outdoor space when determining the maximum number of residents and visitors who can simultaneously occupy that outdoor space. The LTCF must clearly communicate and enforce social distancing of six feet between the resident and all visitors. The facility must set the maximum number of visitors allowed in a single day. Visitors must schedule an appointment with the facility to visit a resident.

**IDPH COVID-19 Situational Webinar Wednesday**

The Illinois Dept. of Public Health will host a COVID-19 Situational Update webinar on Wednesday, June 24 at 11 a.m. to provide the latest information on the Coronavirus Disease outbreak and Illinois preparedness efforts. To register, [click here](#).

**CMS COVID-19 Stakeholder Calls This Week**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) hosts a variety of stakeholder calls specific to COVID-19. Conference lines are limited, and CMS encourages interested participants to register and join via audio webcast. Call recordings and transcripts are available on the CMS podcast [website](#). This week’s calls include:

- **Tuesday, June 23**
  - Home Health and Hospice (2nd and 4th Tuesdays): 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. CDT. Dial-in: 833-614-0820; Passcode: 3676539; register for audio webcast [here](#).
  - COVID-19 Office Hours (every Tuesday): 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. CDT. Dial-in: 833-614-0820; Passcode: 5775248; register for audio webcast [here](#).

- **Wednesday, June 24**
  - Nursing Homes (2nd and 4th Wednesdays): 3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. CDT. Dial-in: 833-614-0820; Passcode: 3089577; register for audio webcast [here](#).
  - Dialysis Organizations (2nd and 4th Wednesdays): 4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. CDT. Dial-in: 833-614-0820; Passcode: 6494855; register for audio webcast [here](#).

- **Thursday, June 25**
  - Nurses (2nd and 4th Thursdays): 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. CDT. Dial-in: 833-614-0820; Passcode: 9496814; register for audio webcast [here](#).

**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