March 19, 2020

ILLSNOIS 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
    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 – March 19, 2020 – Hospital Leaders Call Saturday Morning

To support hospitals and health systems in their ongoing efforts to care for patients potentially exposed to or diagnosed with COVID-19, IHA is continuing to provide updates on the latest developments and other important information about the novel coronavirus.

The IHA team continues to work with our Congressional delegation on federal relief, including regulatory flexibility and funding for hospitals. At the state level, IHA is collecting all of your input to prepare a statewide hospital waiver request, as well as state waiver recommendations and potential legislative remedies to, again, provide hospitals with maximum flexibility to be nimble during this extraordinary response. The IHA team, in partnership with our hospitals is also impressing upon state leaders the importance of preventing any funding interruptions and ensuring that hospitals have the necessary funding to remain open and available to care for patients.

Situational Awareness
Today, Gov. J.B. Pritzker and the Illinois Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) announced 134 new cases of COVID-19 and three new deaths, for a total of 422 cases and four deaths. The most recent deaths include a Will County resident in his 50s, a Cook County resident in her 80s, and an out-of-state resident in her 70s who was in Sangamon County. (The State has launched a new website to provide the public with updates, information and resources: coronavirus.illinois.gov)

New IDPH Email Portal for Receiving Hospital Questions, Comments, Ideas
At the request of IHA, IDPH today established a new email portal: dph.hospitaladmin@illinois.gov. This designated email address is reserved to receive questions, comments, and ideas from the hospital
community and IHA. A team of staff assigned from the IDPH Director’s Office will review the emails and execute on them, with a goal of responding within 24 hours.

IHA Seeks Donations of N95s to Local Hospitals
On behalf of IHA’s members, IHA President & CEO A.J. Wilhelmi today issued a personal plea to the leaders of associations for the construction industry, dentists, veterinarians, and other groups to donate face masks or N95s to their local hospitals as they care for COVID-19 patients. See IHA’s press release.

IHA Hospital Leaders Call on COVID-19 Saturday Morning at 10 AM
IHA will hold a special Hospital Leaders Call Saturday morning at 10 a.m. Because there are a limited number of lines, we ask that your hospital have no more than 2 leaders join the call. The call-in number, which is different than our usual number is: 888-440-6810, participant code 71060990.

State Relaxes Rules on Telehealth and Medicaid/Private Insurance
Through emergency rules and an executive order, the Governor and his administration today significantly relaxed rules related to telemedicine for both Medicaid and private insurers, allowing more providers to be reimbursed for these services that allow patients more flexibility and safety. Thank you to all who provided input to IHA as we worked with the Administration on this request. For plans regulated by the Department of Insurance, the executive order calls for providers to be reimbursed at the same rate at which they are reimbursed for in-person visits and prohibits private health insurers from imposing any cost-sharing for in-network providers. For Medicaid, the emergency rules also require providers to be reimbursed at the same rate at which they are reimbursed for in-person visits. See the Governor’s Executive Order and press release.

City of Chicago – New Order/Schools Closed Until April 20
At the direction of Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) Commissioner Dr. Allison Arwady today signed a Public Health Order requiring all residents in the City of Chicago with confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) illness or who are exhibiting symptoms of the illness to stay home to help stem the further spread of the virus. See press release. The Mayor also announced that Chicago Public Schools will remain closed through April 20.

IDFPR Extends License Renewal Deadline
Effective today, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation has extended the renewal deadline for all professional licenses issued by the Department that normally expire between March 1, 2020 and July 31, 2020. The new deadline is September 30, 2020. Also, those licensees who require completion of continuing education for renewal will have up to and including September 30, 2020 to meet that requirement.

Flexibility for 340B Providers during COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
During public health emergencies, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) allows 340B-entities significant flexibilities regarding eligibility requirements. 340B providers may continue providing healthcare services through modified delivery mechanisms (e.g., telehealth) without jeopardizing 340B eligibility. Additionally, in a declared emergency an abbreviated health record may be adequate for 340B purposes, so long as it identifies the patient, records the medical evaluation (including any testing, diagnosis or clinical impressions), and indicates the treatment provided or prescribed. More information can be found here.

SIREN
At his press conference this afternoon, Gov. Pritzker urged all physicians in the state to sign up for SIREN, the State of Illinois Rapid Electronic Notification System, which IDPH uses to send COVID-19 alerts and guidance. To register for SIREN, go to https://siren.illinois.gov/agreement.php or send an email to dph.siren@illinois.gov
Latest Resources and Guidance

- IDPH webpage on COVID-19
- 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