March 30, 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 – March 30, 2020

Following is a brief recap of today’s top developments.

Situational Awareness
The Illinois Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) today announced 461 new COVID-19 cases, for a total of 5,057 cases in 52 counties statewide. Eight new deaths were reported for a total of 73 deaths.

Additionally, 12 men who were incarcerated at Stateville Correctional Center in Crest Hill are now hospitalized with COVID-19, including several requiring ventilators. There are 77 more incarcerated individuals with symptoms who are isolated at the facility. Eleven staff are also being isolated.

McCormick Place COVID-19 Field Hospital
Governor J.B. Pritzker and Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot announced this afternoon that part of McCormick Place will be converted into an alternate care facility for COVID-19 patients who do not require intensive care. The build out will take place in phases, with up to 500 beds expected to be assembled by the end of this week. Through a multi-phase approach, teams will be working around the clock to complete the conversion of several spaces on the McCormick Place Campus. Between three different locations, the facility will have capacity to care for up to 3,000 patients and will be made fully operational by the end of April to accommodate increased demand for care as quickly as possible.
In addition, the Governor said his administration is working to re-open the former Advocate Sherman Hospital in Elgin and Metro South Health Center in Blue Island as part of the state’s plan to increase bed capacity.

PPE Update
Less than two weeks ago, IHA issued a plea to more than 100 associations and organizations across the state asking for donations of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), especially N95 masks; the state and the city of Chicago also launched campaigns seeking PPE donations. This afternoon, Governor Pritzker said so far more than 5 million PPE items have been donated from people, businesses and other organizations and shared with hospitals throughout the state. Individuals and organizations interested in donating PPE are urged to send an email to ppe.donations@illinois.gov or go to https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/serve/Disaster/Pages/COVID-19-PPE-Donations.aspx

“Scouring global supply chains,” the Governor also said the state expects to receive 5.5 million N95s and more than 5.5 million surgical masks by the end of this week under contracts that the state has executed.

CMS Regulatory Changes re: Patient Triage, Capacity, Workforce, Telehealth, Paperwork
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced this afternoon that it has issued temporary regulatory waivers and new rules to provide flexibility in the nation’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These temporary changes apply immediately across the entire healthcare system for the duration of the President’s emergency declaration and allow hospitals and health systems to deliver services at other locations to make room for COVID-19 patients needing acute care in their main facility. CMS’ waivers and flexibility permit hospitals and healthcare systems to expand capacity by triaging patients to a variety of community-based locales, including ambulatory surgery centers, inpatient rehabilitation hospitals, hotels, and dormitories. The CMS waivers and rule changes are also aimed at: rapidly expanding the healthcare workforce; promoting telehealth; and reducing paperwork.

For additional background information on the waivers and rule changes, go to: https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/additional-backgroundsweeping-regulatory-changes-help-us-healthcare-system-address-covid-19-patient


April 1 Virtual Event on Telehealth During COVID-19 Crisis
The Partnership for a Connected Illinois will hold a complimentary virtual event on “Telehealth Opportunities and Challenges During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency” on Wed., April 1 from 12-2:45 p.m. CT. The program, co-sponsored by the Illinois Association of Healthcare Attorneys, will be directed toward lawyers, health and hospital systems, physicians, telehealth providers, payers, nonprofits, professional and trade associations, medical schools and investors. Click here to register.

April 2 COCA Call on Managing Critically Ill Adults with COVID-19
The CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) will hold a call covering Clinical Management of Critically Ill Adults with Coronavirus Disease on April 2 from 1-2 p.m. (CT). For more
information, including call details and ways to participate, click here. A listing of 2020 COCA calls, slides and summaries is available here.

FDA Emergency Use Authorization for Respirators
The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for certain imported non-National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) approved respirators that have been designed, evaluated, and validated to meet a performance standard specified in the authorization. The FDA says that respirators authorized under the EUA are for use by healthcare professionals in healthcare settings, in accordance with CDC recommendations. A frequently asked questions document has more information on the respirators included in the EUA.

IDHS Expanding Services by Phone and Online; 14 Offices Remain Open
The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) announced yesterday that 14 Family Community Resource Centers (FCRC) will remain open with reduced staff to balance the need to provide essential services while meeting Centers for Disease Control social distancing guidelines during the coronavirus situation. FCRCs are the public facing benefits offices that bring nutrition and medical supports to individuals and families across the state. IDHS urges all customers to apply for and manage their benefits online at ABE.illinois.gov or by calling the IDHS Help is Here toll-free line at 1-833-2-FIND-HELP.

Chicago Establishes Smart911 for Safety
The City of Chicago is encouraging residents to sign up for Smart911 – a free, voluntary and secure service that allows individuals and families in the city to provide critical medical information when they call 9-1-1. Residents can create a safety profile for themselves and family members that will include information on current health conditions as well as information if a resident is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or is under quarantine. This information will automatically be provided to first responders when calling 9-1-1 and will enable them to quickly and safely respond to emergencies. To learn more, view this video.

IDPH Email Portal for Receiving Hospital Questions, Comments, Ideas
To send questions, comments or ideas to IDPH, email dph.hospitaladmin@illinois.gov. A team of staff assigned from the IDPH Director’s Office is reviewing the emails, with a goal of responding in 24 hours.

SIREN
To register for the State of Illinois Rapid Electronic Notification System (SIREN), go to https://siren.illinois.gov/agreement.php or email dph.siren@illinois.gov

Resources
- IDPH webpage on COVID-19
- Illinois COIVD-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