March 31, 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 31, 2020

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

Situational Awareness
The Illinois Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) today announced 937 new COVID-19 cases, for a total of 5,994 cases in 54 counties statewide. Twenty-six new deaths were reported for a total of 99 deaths.

At the afternoon press briefing, Governor J.B. Pritzker announced the extension of the state’s stay-at-home order to April 30, which includes schools throughout the state.

IDPH Director Ngozi Ezike, M.D., said COVID-19 testing is prioritized for those 65 or older, those with the most severe illness and those who are at highest risk. Testing is also being prioritized for those who are in correctional facilities and nursing homes. Dr. Ezike noted that 80% of those who become infected will not need critical care. She urged the public to stay home, follow social distancing practices and continue washing their hands.

Update on Statewide ICU Bed, Ventilator Availability
Governor J.B. Pritzker reported that hospitals statewide have 41% of ICU beds available (1,053 out of 2,578) and 68% of ventilators available (1,675 out of 2,460). Currently 35% of ICU beds statewide are occupied by COVID-19 patients and 24% of ventilators are being used on COVID-19 patients. He noted that the greatest risk of hitting capacity is weeks from now.
Increasing Bed Reporting in EMResource
IDPH is requesting that all hospitals increase their reporting of daily bed availability and COVID/PUI ICU and Vent Patient data to TWICE DAILY starting April 1, 2020 at 10am. These times will be at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily. The PPE (all regions) and lab data (regions 1-10), will remain at once daily at 10 a.m.

IHA Summary: New CMS Waivers and Regulatory Changes
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) yesterday announced new waivers and regulatory changes aimed at allowing hospitals to expand capacity to treat more patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. The new flexibilities include allowing ambulatory surgery centers, hotels and convention centers to be repurposed to respond to the outbreak. See IHA’s brief overview.

IHA Resources for Federal Funding and Fiscal Relief
Today, IHA released two resource documents to assist hospitals and health systems with identifying federal funding opportunities as well as automatic fiscal relief measures aimed at addressing significant losses in revenues and increased costs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The majority of funding opportunities and payment mechanisms highlighted in the companion documents were made available through the CARES Act (H.R. 748), enacted March 27. The Federal Funding Opportunities Resource Document provides an overview of direct funding sources available to hospitals and health systems to assist with immediate cash flow needs. (Hospitals must apply for the funding opportunities listed in this document.) The companion Automatic Federal Fiscal Relief Resource Document identifies automatic federal fiscal relief available to hospitals and health systems.

OB/Neonatal COVID-19 Updates
The Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative (ILPQC), in partnership with the Illinois Dept. of Public Health (IDPH), will host a COVID-19 Strategies for OB/Neonatal Units Webinar on Fri. April 3, 12 to 1p.m. Leaders from OB and Neonatal units from around Illinois will be sharing strategies and discussing approaches for key issues that OB/Neonatal providers and staff are currently facing. Please register for the webinar with the following zoom link. Registration is limited to 300 participants, but a recording of the webinar will be made available on the ILPQC website.

ILPQC has launched a COVID-19 OB/Neonatal resources webpage that will be regularly updated with national guidelines, publications and example strategies/protocols and resources from obstetric and neonatal units and outpatient OB care. Members willing to share COVID-19 resources/protocols with other Illinois hospitals can email them to info@ilpqc.org.

IDPH has released guidance on the care of pregnant women and newborns during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The IDPH Perinatal Advisory Committee (PAC) supports the recently published recommendations related to the COVID-19 pandemic from the Society of Maternal Fetal Medicine regarding obstetrical care and appropriate distribution of personal protective equipment resources in order to fully protect obstetrical providers, pregnant women, and their partners. While these recommendations may not apply to each and every clinical setting, PAC supports careful consideration of these concerns. Additional COVID-19 guidance is available on the American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology webpage.

New Hospital Resource
Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center (Charlotte, N.C.) has developed a hospital blueprint for handling essential operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. “Maximizing the Calm Before the Storm: Tiered
Surgical Response Plan for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)” was published on the American College of Surgeons website in advance of print publication in the Journal of the American College of Surgeons.

Changes in Hospital Reporting Requirements/Deadlines
Due to instructions received from CMS relative to the COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with 42CFR§413.24(f)(2)(ii), the due date for submission of any Medicare cost report with an original due date of 3/20/2020 through 6/1/2020 has been extended. Cost report reminder letters that are sent out going forward will reflect the newly extended deadlines. See the table below for the new due dates.

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, IDPH announced it has suspended the new required validation of 48-hour reporting of opioid overdoses in hospital emergency departments until at least June 30. Today was the original due date for the first quarter report. Hospitals were sent a letter notifying them of this change.

The Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board announced that it is waiving the due dates on all annual health facilities questionnaires and will send additional instructions to facilities at an appropriate time.

Chicago Hotel Rooms for First Responders
Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot announced 275 hotel rooms are available for paramedics, firefighters and police officers to rest and have respite in a safe space. The Mayor said the rooms are not for first responders who are sick, but for those who may prefer to stay downtown rather than go home.

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