



May 13, 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
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Keneatha Johnson, Director, Quality, Safety, and Health Policy

SUBJECT: IHA COVID-19 Update – May 13, 2020

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

Situational Awareness

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today [announced](#) 1,677 new COVID-19 cases and 192 deaths—the highest one-day death total reported so far. The total number of cases in the state is 84,698 in 99 counties, with a total of 3,792 deaths. IDPH says that in the past 24 hours, 17,668 test specimens have been processed. Statewide COVID-19 patient hospitalizations in the past 24 hours decreased from 4,626 to 4,563. Of that figure, 1,208 patients are in ICU with 714 patients on ventilators. From May 3 to 10, the state had an overall COVID-19 positivity rate of 17%.

CMS Issues Nursing Homes Best Practices Toolkit to Combat COVID-19

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today released a new [toolkit](#) to aid nursing homes, Governors, states, departments of health, and other agencies who provide

oversight and assistance to these facilities, with additional resources in the fight against COVID-19 in nursing homes. The toolkit builds upon previous CMS actions, which provide a wide range of tools and guidance. The toolkit includes best practices from front line healthcare providers, Governors' COVID-19 task forces, associations and other organizations, and experts.

New Online Platform to Address COVID-19 Supply Shortage Procurement

Resilinc, in collaboration with Stanford Healthcare and Premier Inc., has launched The Exchange at Resilinc, an online platform for the healthcare industry, where procurement groups interact with vetted peer organizations to identify, locate and exchange critical supply items. Each organization can list items they need and offer those they can spare in exchange. Hospitals and first line healthcare providers experiencing supply shortages can submit requests for specific items and be matched with peer organizations who can supply those items. To join The Exchange, complete the pre-registration form at the website, <https://theexchange.resilinc.com>. There is no cost for hospitals to join.

General Assembly Returns to Springfield Next Week

The Illinois General Assembly is scheduled to reconvene next week, starting on May 20, for an abbreviated three-day session. The House will meet in the Bank of Springfield convention center, while the Senate will meet at the Capitol. Key items on the legislative agenda include the state budget, authorization of Phase 2 of the Hospital Assessment Program and COVID-19 relief. Yesterday, IHA sent a letter to the four legislative leaders outlining COVID relief requests for hospitals and health systems.

Free Uber Rides for Chicago Healthcare Workers

For a limited time, Uber is offering healthcare workers free rides between work locations and Chicago respite hotels, using promotional codes in the Uber app, with limited transportation options. Healthcare workers who are registered to stay in a respite hotel can request the promotional codes by emailing EOCHousing@cityofchicago.org and including their name, employer, hotel and how many trips are needed. Once a request is verified, codes and instructions will be emailed.

NGS Telehealth Webinar Thursday

On Thursday, May 14, National Government Services (NGS) will host a webinar to review the latest telehealth updates specific to COVID-19 and how they apply to Medicare. NGS will cover temporary changes for telehealth and telemedicine services, review frequently asked questions, and take additional questions from participants following the presentation. The webinar is scheduled for 9:30-11 a.m. CDT. To register, please go to www.ngsmedicare.com, sign in and access the Education tab.

COVID-19 Strategies for OB/Neonatal Units Webinar Friday

The Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative (ILPQC), in partnership with IDPH, holds weekly COVID-19 Strategies for OB/Neonatal Units Discussion webinars. The next webinar is Friday, May 15 from 12 to 1 p.m. All questions from the previous OB and neonatal COVID-19 discussion

webinars with answers provided from the OB and neonatal panels, as well as recordings of all previous webinars, are available on the ILPQC COVID-19 [webpage](#).

CDC Video on COVID-19 Community Spread/New or Updated Resources

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released a [video](#) explaining how COVID-19 can spread in a community. The video features a cluster of COVID-19 cases from Chicago as its example. The CDC has issued new or updated resources:

- [New funeral guidance](#) for individuals and families;
- Updated guidance for [business and employers](#);
- Information for [schools and child care programs](#);
- [Strategies to reduce the spread](#) of COVID-19;
- [Daily life and coping](#); and
- [Test for current infection](#).

Analysis of Health Insurance Coverage During the Pandemic

As millions of Americans have recently become unemployed during the COVID-19 pandemic, a new Kaiser Family Foundation [analysis](#) estimates nearly 27 million people would remain uninsured due to the loss of job-based health coverage if they do not sign up for other coverage. While most are eligible for coverage under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), not everyone will access it. In addition, 5.7 million people are not eligible for financial assistance under the ACA and would have to pay the full cost of their coverage. The analysis estimates that, based on their incomes and other factors, most (79%) who lost employer coverage and became uninsured are likely eligible for subsidized coverage, either through Medicaid (12.7 million) or through the ACA's marketplaces (8.4 million). [Data](#) for Illinois show an estimated 846,000 state residents losing health insurance in May, with 469,000 people potentially eligible for Medicaid.

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