



May 15, 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

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SUBJECT: IHA COVID-19 Update – May 15, 2020

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

Situational Awareness

The Illinois Department of Public Health today [announced](#) 2,432 new COVID-19 cases and 130 deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 90,369, with a total of 4,058 deaths. In the past 24 hours, 26,565 test specimens have been processed. Statewide COVID-19 patient hospitalizations in the past 24 hours declined from 4,473 to 4,367. Of that figure, 1,129 patients were in the ICU (a decrease of 3) with 675 patients on ventilators (a decrease of 14).

Testing Update

IDPH has issued [updated guidance](#) on COVID-19 testing at community-based testing sites. The testing is now available at those sites for people who:

- Have COVID-19 symptoms (cough, shortness of breath and fever) OR
- Have a risk factor, such as contact with someone confirmed to have COVID-19 or a compromised immune system or a serious chronic medical condition

Testing at the community-based testing sites is also available for those with or without symptoms who:

- Work in a health care facility

- Work in correctional facilities, such as jails or prisons
- Work as a government employee
- Serve as first responders, such as paramedics, emergency medical technicians, law enforcement officers, or firefighters
- Support critical infrastructure, such as workers in grocery stores, pharmacies, restaurants, gas stations, public utilities, factories, childcare and sanitation

A list of testing sites can be found online at coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/testing-sites or dph.illinois.gov/covid19/covid-19-testing-sites.

At his press briefing this afternoon, Governor J.B. Pritzker [announced](#) new drive-thru COVID-19 testing facilities will be available in the coming days on Chicago's southside (May 16), Champaign (May 19), Rolling Meadows (May 20), while drive-thru and walk-up services will be offered in Peoria (May 23). These free community services will be open seven days a week to test individuals with COVID-19 symptoms and those employees who support critical services.

The Governor said expanding testing capabilities is a key part of his Restore Illinois plan to reopen the state. He noted that test positivity rates continue to decline, with the current seven-day average at 12% (today's one-day positivity rate was 9.2%). "The good news is that our current state positivity rate, under 14% on average for the last 14 days, that's likely becoming a better indicator of the true infection rate from the general public than it was when testing was limited," said Pritzker.

The state is scheduled to receive [\\$286 million](#) by May 23 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to expand COVID-19 testing and surveillance activities under the Paycheck Protection Program and the Health Care Enhancement Act.

Monday Deadline for Submitting Data to Inform Remdesivir Distribution

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that the next deadline for submitting data to inform the agency's distribution of its supply of remdesivir is Monday, May 18 at 11:59 p.m. EDT. HHS is now requesting weekly data from hospitals on the number of currently hospitalized COVID-19 patients and, of those hospitalized, the number requiring placement in intensive care units. HHS asks hospitals to submit the data using its [TeleTracking web portal](#). (NOTE: the requested data is not included in the dataset that IDPH sends to HHS, so hospitals are urged to comply with the HHS TeleTracking request.)

CDC Issues Alert on Rare Illness in Children Related to COVID-19

The CDC issued a [health alert](#) on a rare but potentially deadly illness in children linked to COVID-19. The illness, called "multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children" or MIS-C has been reported in at least 19 states and Washington, DC. The CDC alert provides guidance for diagnosis, including criteria of a fever of 100.4 degrees for at least 24 hours, evidence of inflammation in the body and hospitalization with problems in at least two organs, such as the heart, kidneys or lungs.

CMS: New COVID-19 Guidance on Medicaid Managed Care

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has issued [new guidance](#) to states to allow temporary COVID-19-related modifications in provider payment methodologies and capitation

rates under Medicaid managed care plans. States are allowed to use directed payments to increase provider payments within managed care arrangements.

Cook County's COVID-19 Response Plan for Equitable Recovery

On Thursday, Cook County Board President [Toni Preckwinkle](#) unveiled the [Cook County COVID-19 Response Plan: From Rapid Response to Equitable Recovery](#). The plan documents the county's initial response to the crisis and outlines priorities for the next several months. In a continuation of the County's commitment to advancing racial equity, the plan focuses on addressing inequities that have been exacerbated during the pandemic and follows the framework of Cook County's Policy Roadmap, a five-year strategic plan that was released in 2018. The roadmap established six areas of focus: Healthy Communities: Health and Wellness; Vital Communities: Economic Development; Safe and Thriving Communities: Criminal Justice; Sustainable Communities: Environmental Sustainability; Smart Communities: Public Infrastructure; and Open Communities: Good Government.

ICEP Webinar Recording on Healthcare Disparities and COVID-19

The Illinois College of Emergency Physicians has a recording available of its May 13 Healthcare Disparities and the COVID-19 Pandemic [webinar](#). The webinar discusses healthcare challenges in communities, differences in impact on different ethnicities and challenges for hospitals without advanced specialty resources.

CDC Guidance on Reopening

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Thursday released six flow charts to help [workplaces](#), [schools](#), [restaurants and bars](#), [camps](#), [child care](#), and [transit systems](#) decide when to reopen.

HHS Awards Telehealth Grants

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), has [awarded](#) \$15 million to 159 organizations nationwide, including Illinois, across five health workforce programs to increase telehealth capabilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These awards are funded through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. HRSA made awards to organizations based on their capacity to implement COVID-19 telehealth activities that train high demand professions across the healthcare team. Read more in a [press release](#).

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