



May 18, 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 – May 18, 2020**

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

**Situational Awareness**

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today [announced](#) 2,294 new COVID-19 cases and 59 deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 96,485 in 100 counties, with 4,234 deaths. In the past 24 hours, 21,297 test specimens were processed, with a positivity rate of 10.8%. Statewide, COVID-19 patient hospitalizations in the past 24 hours declined from 4,190 to 4,120. Of that figure, 1,096 patients were in the ICU (a decrease of 48), with 636 patients on ventilators (a decrease of 99).

**Governor Announces Contact Tracing Collaborative**

At his press briefing this afternoon, Governor J.B. Pritzker [announced](#) the Illinois Contact Tracing Collaborative, a locally-driven approach to scale up contact tracing. The state is engaging two health departments to pilot the initiative: St. Clair County in the Metro East region and Lake County in the Northeast region. These local health departments were chosen for having significant needs in terms of case numbers in vulnerable populations, a robust capacity for tracing, and existing collaborations of public health personnel, medical students and volunteers already on the ground. IDPH has also sent assessments to the state's 97 local health departments regarding their ability to expand and deploy their contact tracing capabilities. IDPH is requesting work plans and budgets from the departments in order to incorporate their plans into the state's plan and bring them online in the coming weeks.

### **Contact Your State Lawmakers Now to Pass Legislation Supporting Hospitals**

The General Assembly will return to Springfield on Wednesday, May 20 for an abbreviated Special Session with a limited agenda, including the state budget, the Hospital Assessment Program, and COVID-19 relief. Last week, IHA sent a letter ([click here](#)) to the four legislative leaders outlining key requests from the hospital community to provide critically needed support during the COVID-19 pandemic and to authorize Phase 2 of the assessment program. *To email your state legislators asking them to pass legislation supporting hospitals, [click here](#).*

### **HHS Cancels Today's Data Collection Deadline to Inform Remdesivir Distribution**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has canceled today's deadline for hospitals and health systems to submit data into HHS' TeleTracking system to inform the agency's distribution of its supply of remdesivir. While hospitals do not have to submit the COVID-19 admission and COVID-19 intensive care unit occupancy data today, HHS indicates it intends to ask for updated data again in the next few weeks.

### **PPP Loan Forgiveness Application Released**

The U.S. Department of the Treasury and U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has [released](#) the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan Forgiveness [Application and Instructions](#). To apply for forgiveness of a PPP loan, borrowers must complete the application and submit it to their lender. The form and instructions contain several measures aimed at reducing compliance burdens and simplifying the process for borrowers, including:

- Flexibility to include eligible payroll and non-payroll expenses paid or incurred during the eight-week period after receiving their PPP loan;
- Step-by-step instructions on how to perform the calculations required by the CARES Act to confirm eligibility for loan forgiveness;
- Addition of a new exemption from the loan forgiveness reduction for borrowers who have made a good-faith, written offer to rehire workers that was declined;
- Borrower-friendly implementation of statutory exemptions from loan forgiveness reduction based on rehiring by June 30; and
- Options for borrowers to calculate payroll costs using an "alternative payroll covered period" that aligns with borrowers' regular payroll cycles.

### **State Guidance on Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Survivors During COVID-19 Pandemic**

As part of a collaborative effort to reassure sexual assault and domestic violence survivors that hospital emergency departments (EDs) remain safe, equipped and ready to provide treatment during the COVID-19 outbreak, in consultation with IHA and sexual assault and domestic violence advocacy organizations, the Pritzker administration and IDPH have issued guidance for Illinois hospitals and advocates.

In addition to the ED reorganization strategies that have already taken place, the guidance encourages hospitals, as appropriate and feasible, to extend triage and care for sexual assault and domestic violence survivors to an alternate location in proximity to the ED. Rape crisis and domestic violence advocates have been directed, when possible, to call hospitals ahead of a survivor's ED visit to give notice of need for sexual assault forensic examination or evidence collection. Hospitals and advocates are also encouraged to remain in contact regarding visitation policies during COVID-19, and hospitals should arrange for telephone support if an advocate cannot accompany the survivor. See the [IDPH guidance](#), which also includes links to lists of rape crisis centers and domestic violence service providers.

### **IDPH Advisory Statement on OB/Neonatal Care During Pandemic**

The IDPH Perinatal Advisory Committee (PAC) has released a statement on obstetric and neonatal care during the COVID-19 pandemic, seeking to ensure pregnant women and newborns continue to have access to safe and high quality care, even during the pandemic. The PAC requests hospitals and other providers caring for pregnant mothers and newborns follow COVID-19 practices related to prenatal, hospital and postnatal care consistent with standards developed by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the American Academy of Pediatrics. The full statement, including additional resources, can be accessed [here](#).

### **CDC COCA Call on MIS-C Tuesday**

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) call on Tuesday, May 19 from 1-2:30 p.m. CDT will discuss the clinical characteristics of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C), how cases have been diagnosed and treated, and how clinicians are responding to recently reported cases associated with COVID-19. More information and how to participate are available [here](#).

### **CMS' COVID Calls Tuesday and Wednesday**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) holds weekly COVID-19 calls. CMS encourages attendees to register for the webcast rather than calling in. Scheduled calls include:

Tuesday, May 19

- Home Health and Hospice, 2:00-2:30pm CDT. Dial: 833-614-0820; Passcode: 6477704; [Webcast](#).
- CMS COVID-19 Office Hours, 4:00-5:00pm CDT; Dial: 833-614-0820; Passcode: 1908409; [Webcast](#).

Wednesday, May 20

- Nursing Homes, 3:30-4:00pm CDT; Dial: 833-614-0820; Passcode: 4879622; [Webcast](#).
- Dialysis Organizations, 4:30-5:00pm CDT; Dial: 833-614-0820; Passcode: 3287645; [Webcast](#).

### **Trump Administration Names Leaders for "Operation Warp Speed" on Vaccines, Treatment**

On Friday, the Trump Administration [announced](#) the appointment of Moncef Slaoui as chief advisor and General Gustave F. Perna as chief operating officer of Operation Warp Speed, the administration's national program to accelerate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics. Slaoui is a venture capitalist and former Chairman of Global Research and Development and Chairman of Global Vaccines at GlaxoSmithKline. As the four-star general in charge of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, General Perna oversees the global supply chain and installation and materiel readiness for the U.S. Army. Among its objectives, Operation Warp Speed aims to have substantial quantities of a safe and effective vaccine available for Americans by January 2021.

### **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-ih.org](mailto:tnuding@team-ih.org)