

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE



May 19, 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 19, 2020

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

Situational Awareness

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today [announced](#) 1,545 new COVID-19 cases and 146 deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 98,030 in 100 counties, with 4,379 deaths. In the past 24 hours, 18,443 test specimens were processed, with a positivity rate of 8.4%. Statewide, COVID-19 patient hospitalizations in the past 24 hours declined from 4,120 to 4,002. Of that figure, 993 patients were in the ICU (a decrease of 103), with 576 patients on ventilators (a decrease of 60).

IDPH Guidance on Support Persons in Healthcare Facilities (Including Hospitals)

IDPH has issued guidance clarifying that healthcare facilities (including hospitals) should allow patients with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities or cognitive impairments to be accompanied by a support person determined to be essential to their care. Persons with disabilities should be provided reasonable accommodations that afford meaningful access to information and an equal opportunity to benefit from the treatment. Individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities may require accommodations in a healthcare facility that include permitting the presence of a support person, such as a guardian, family member, caregiver, or paid support worker, provided that essential precautions can be taken to contain the spread of infection. See the full guidance [here](#) and a press release [here](#).

CMS Guidance to Ensure States Have a Plan in Place to Safely Reopen Nursing Homes

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released [new guidance](#) for state and local officials to ensure the safe reopening of nursing homes. It details critical steps nursing homes and

communities should take prior to relaxing restrictions implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including rigorous infection prevention and control, adequate testing, and surveillance. The recommendations would allow states to make sure nursing homes continue to take the appropriate and necessary steps to ensure resident safety and open their doors when the time is right. The guidance is also aimed at helping nursing homes reopen to visitors and reunite families with their loved ones in a safe, phased manner. See also CMS' [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Update on Chicago's COVID-19 Testing Centers

On Monday, Mayor Lori Lightfoot joined co-founders of Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE), Sean Penn and Ann Lee, to provide an update on the city's COVID-19 testing facilities, which are strategically placed throughout Chicago to target the neighborhoods most in need. The City has opened three testing sites in communities that have experienced a disproportionate impact from COVID-19: Maria Saucedo Scholastic Academy in the Little Village neighborhood; Dr. Jorge Prieto Math and Science Academy in the Belmont Cragin neighborhood; and in Columbus Park on the far West Side of Chicago. The remaining sites will have staggered launches over the next several weeks.

IDPH COVID-19 Situational Update Webinar Wednesday

IDPH will host a COVID-19 Situational Update webinar on Wednesday, May 20, from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. to provide the latest information on the Coronavirus Disease outbreak and Illinois preparedness efforts. [Click here](#) for the registration site.

CMS COVID-19 Calls Thursday and Friday

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:

Thursday, May 21

- Nurses, 2:00-2:30pm CT; Dial: 833-614-0820; Passcode: 2874976; [Webcast](#).
- CMS COVID-19 Office Hours, 4:00-5:00pm CT; Dial: 833-614-0820; Passcode: 9984433; [Webcast](#).

Friday, May 22

- Lessons from the Front Lines: COVID-19, 11:30am-1:00pm CT; Dial: 877-251-0301; Passcode: 6086125; [Webcast](#).

State Launches Safety Messages to At-Risk Residents

Governor Pritzker and Lieutenant Governor Stratton are releasing a set of video messages and radio announcements through the "All In Illinois" initiative that focus on the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in communities of color. The spots feature key influencers from black and brown communities who reiterate the need to practice social distancing and take protective measures to stay healthy as well as "remind Illinoisans in our most vulnerable communities that we are all in this together." [Click here](#) for a press release and for links to the video and radio announcements.

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