



May 20, 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 20, 2020

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

Situational Awareness

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today [announced](#) 2,388 new COVID-19 cases and 147 deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 100,418 in 100 counties, with 4,525 deaths. In the past 24 hours, 21,029 test specimens were processed, with a positivity rate of 11.4%. The current statewide 7-day rolling positivity rate is 10.3%. Statewide, COVID-19 patient hospitalizations in the past 24 hours declined from 4,002 to 3,914, the lowest number since IDPH began reporting COVID-19 hospitalizations in mid-April. Of that figure, 1,005 patients were in the ICU (an increase of 12), with 554 patients on ventilators (a decrease of 22).

At his daily press briefing, held at the State Capitol, where the General Assembly is now in special session, Governor J.B. Pritzker announced modifications of his "Restore Illinois" plan. With all regions of the state on track to meet various metrics to move to Phase 3 as soon as

May 29, the Governor said restaurants and bars will be allowed to reopen with limited outdoor seating in Phase 3. Also, numerous outdoor activities, such as boating, camping, tennis and golf, can also resume with a 10-person limit. In addition, the Governor said all state parks will reopen on May 29, which is already permitted in Phase 3. See the [Governor's press release](#).

HFS Provider Notices Related to COVID-19

The Illinois Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) has issued a notice reminding healthcare providers to provide COVID-19 diagnostic testing and testing-related services free of charge to all Illinois residents, regardless of insurance status or immigration status. HFS is initiating a new eligibility category to reimburse providers for these services. For more details, see the [notice](#).

HFS also issued a [notice](#) on temporary prior approval requirement changes for durable medical equipment and supplies providers and home health agencies related to COVID-19.

IHA Update on COVID-19 Private Payer Guidance

To assist members in navigating private payer policies, IHA has created a [table](#) that summarizes COVID-19 coverage of testing/screening and treatment for plans offered by health insurance issuers operating in Illinois. The COVID-19 treatment information generally applies to private fully-insured, individual, and group health plans. It does not address policies for self-funded group health plans (ERISA), Medicare Advantage plans, or Medicaid managed care plans.

Federal law requires most health insurance issuers offering individual and group health plans, including self-funded employer-based health plans (ERISA) to waive cost-sharing, prior authorization and other medical management policies, and network requirements for COVID-19-related testing and screening services; however, there are currently no federal or state mandates regarding treatment of COVID-19. Coverage flexibilities for treatment are generally at the discretion of the health insurance issuer based on plan type and benefit design and typically limited to in-network services. See [IHA's memo](#) for additional information.

CDC Issues Guidance on Re-Opening

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released detailed guidance for reopening child care programs, schools, day camps, mass transit, and restaurants and bars that have been closed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The 60-page document also includes recommendations for employers with workers at high risk. The plan outlines a three-phased approach, employing a wide range of strategies on surveillance, testing, infection control and contact tracing, for reducing social distancing measures, and proposes the use of six gating indicators to assess when to move through another phase. The gating indicators include decreases in newly reported COVID-19 cases and emergency room visits as well as a robust testing program. The CDC guidance does not include any recommendations concerning religious organizations or events. [Click here](#) to see the full guidance.

CDC Report on Gatherings at Church and COVID-19 Spread

A [new report](#) from the CDC indicates that faith-based events could be sources of COVID-19 transmission. The Arkansas Department of Health tracked a cluster of COVID-19 cases (61 confirmed cases and four deaths) in rural Arkansas to a church pastor and his wife. The report's authors state: "This outbreak highlights the potential for widespread transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, both at group gatherings during church events and within the broader community...Faith-based organizations that are operating or planning to resume in-person operations, including regular services, funerals or other events, should be aware of the potential for high rates of transmission of SARS-CoV-2. These organizations should work with local health officials to determine how to implement the U.S. Government's guidelines for modifying activities during the COVID-19 pandemic to prevent transmission of the virus to their members and their communities."

IDPH Webinar Thursday on COVID-19 Update for EMS

IDPH will provide updates as it relates to care, transport, and infection control practices for EMS at a webinar on Thursday, May 21 at 3:30 p.m. [Click here](#) to go to the registration site.

IDPH/CDPH Webinar on EMResource Next Tuesday, May 26

The Illinois and Chicago Departments of Public Health will hold a webinar on Tuesday, May 26 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. to provide an overview of the EmResource system and updates to definitions as it relates to bed availability and capacity reporting. [Click here](#) to register.

Resources

- [IDPH webpage on COVID-19](#)
- [Illinois COVID-19 website for the public - coronavirus.illinois.gov](https://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