



May 21, 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 21, 2020**

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

**Situational Awareness**

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today [announced](#) 2,268 new COVID-19 cases and 87 deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 102,686 in 100 counties, with 4,607 deaths. In the past 24 hours, 29,307 test specimens were processed (highest one-day total so far), with a positivity rate of 7.7%. Statewide, COVID-19 patient hospitalizations in the past 24 hours increased from 3,914 to 4,107. Of that figure, 1,088 patients were in the ICU (an increase of 83), with 609 patients on ventilators (an increase of 55). At the same time the number of available ICU beds increased by 200, and the number of available ventilators increased by 580.

**IDPH Interim Guidance on MIS-C Associated with COVID-19**

IDPH has issued a new document on Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) Associated with COVID-19 to ensure that clinicians are aware of current guidance regarding

MIS-C, including the case definition, essential actions, testing, and reporting to local health departments. [Click here](#) to see the full guidance.

### **HHS Provides \$11.8 Million to Illinois Rural Health Centers for COVID-19 Testing**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has distributed \$225 million for COVID-19 testing in rural communities, including \$11.8 million to 239 rural health clinics (RHCs) in Illinois, under the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act. “The funding may be used for a wide range COVID-19 testing and related expenses including planning for implementation of a COVID-19 testing program, procuring supplies to provide testing, training providers and staff on COVID-19 testing procedures, and reporting data to HHS on COVID-19 testing activities,” said Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Administrator Tom Engels. See an [HHS press release](#) for more details.

HHS also awarded \$500,000 for COVID-19 testing technical assistance, such as providing guidance for the implementation and management of testing programs. IHA will publish additional information on the receipt and use of these funds as they are released.

### **IHA Video: Illinois Hospitals Are Heroes in COVID-19 Fight**

Illinois’ more than 200 hospitals, nearly 40 health systems and 285,000 healthcare professionals have come together during COVID-19 with extraordinary conviction to achieve one powerful goal: going the distance for patients and communities. We encourage IHA members to view and share our “Going the Distance” video ([click here](#)), which showcases the tremendous efforts of hospitals and health systems across the state. It is part of our broader “Going the Distance” digital campaign, which includes social media. As part of this campaign, we urge members to submit stories, photos and videos. Please contact Valerie Culver, Assistant Vice President, Corporate Communications and Marketing, at [vculver@team-iha.org](mailto:vculver@team-iha.org) or 630-276-5526.

### **OSHA’s New Enforcement Response Plan for COVID-19, Guidance on its Use of General Duty Clause for Enforcement**

On May 19, 2020, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced its Updated Interim Enforcement Response Plan for COVID-19 (“Updated Plan”). On May 26, 2020, OSHA will rescind its April 13, 2020 Interim Enforcement Response Plan and the new Updated Plan will go into effect, which is time-limited to the current COVID-19 health crisis. As non-essential businesses re-open, OSHA is returning to its inspection planning policy prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in areas where community spread is decreasing, but will continue to prioritize COVID-19 cases. Also, facilities having high and very high-exposure risk jobs, such as hospitals, emergency medical centers, and emergency response facilities, will frequently be the focus of inspection activities in response to COVID-19-related complaints and employer-reported illnesses. The Updated Plan additionally highlights that OSHA will rely on the Occupational Health and Safety Act’s general duty clause to enforce violations if employers do not comply with COVID-19 mitigation measures. See the [updated OSHA plan and guidance](#).

### **CDC Issues Additional Re-Opening Resources**

To help states, tribes, localities, and territories, as well as businesses and community organizations operate as safely as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released a new set of resources to assist in reopening. The resources include health considerations to be used by:

- [Summer camps](#)
- [Schools](#)
- [Youth sports organizations](#)
- [Institutes of higher education](#)
- [Restaurants and bars](#)

These documents focus on four categories of safeguards:

- Promoting behaviors to reduce spread
- Maintaining healthy environments
- Maintaining healthy operations
- Preparing for when someone gets sick

The CDC says decisions and strategies about how to operate are implemented at the state, tribal, local, and territorial levels because every locale is different, and individual jurisdictions have the authority and local awareness needed to protect their communities.

### **Recording of Latest IDPH COVID-19 Situational Webinar Available**

The recording and PowerPoint slides of the May 20 IDPH COVID-19 situational update webinar are now available ([click here](#)) (runs 93 minutes). Key issues covered in yesterday's webinar included agricultural/migrant workers, testing, contact tracing and remdesivir.

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