



May 22, 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
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Keneatha Johnson, Director, Quality, Safety, and Health Policy

SUBJECT: IHA COVID-19 Update – May 22, 2020

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

Situational Awareness

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today [announced](#) 2,758 new COVID-19 cases and 110 deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 105,444 in 100 counties, with a total of 4,715 deaths. IDPH says that in the past 24 hours, 25,113 test specimens have been processed, with a positivity rate of 10.9%. Statewide COVID-19 hospitalizations in the past 24 hours decreased from 4,107 patients to 3,928 patients. Of that figure, 1,060 patients are in ICU (a decrease of 28), with 589 patients on ventilators (a decrease of 20).

RFP for Clinical Management of Metro South Alternative Care Facility

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) has issued an RFP for bids to provide clinical management and direction, oversight and staffing for some or all of the clinical staffing needs at the Metro South Alternative Care Facility (ACF) in Blue Island. The ACF site is currently designed for 586 total beds, of which 237 beds are characterized as Tier 2 (general care), 80 beds are characterized as Tier 2a (modified general care), and 269 beds are characterized as Tier 3 (higher acuity).

This ACF site is expected to serve COVID-19 positive populations with a range of acuities/scopes of care. Depending on the evolving nature of the pandemic and patterns of healthcare utilization by certain populations, the State may need to designate specific bed capacity for unique populations. This might include residents of nursing homes, shelters, or the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC), subject to the provision of appropriate security by trained IDOC personnel.

Vendors who are interested in submitting a bid response package must respond by Wednesday, May 27 at 2 p.m. CDT to Darrell.Marcy@illinois.gov and Tricia.Leezer@illinois.gov. A complete copy of the RFP is available on IEMA's website ([click here](#)).

Reminder: June 3 Deadline for Provider Relief Funds

Providers have until [June 3](#) to accept the Terms and Conditions and submit revenue information specific to the Provider Relief Fund \$50 billion General Distribution. All providers that automatically received funds prior to 5:00 pm on April 24 must provide HHS with an accounting of their annual revenues by [submitting tax forms or financial statements](#). These providers must also agree to the program [Terms and Conditions](#) if they wish to keep the funds. Submitted tax forms/financial statements also serve as an application for additional funding from the \$50 billion General Distribution.

The CARES Act provider relief fund payment attestation portal is [here](#). Revenue information, including tax forms or financial statements, should be submitted via the General Distribution Portal, which is [here](#). Note, according to the [HHS General Distribution Frequently Asked Questions](#), providers must attest to receiving General Distribution funds within 45 days of receipt. Providers that do not accept the Terms and Conditions after 45 days of receipt will be deemed to have accepted the Terms and Conditions.

New ASPR TRACIE Resource: "Onboarding" (Credentialing) Staff in an Emergency

During a pandemic or other emergency, healthcare facilities face significant challenges to quickly onboard additional healthcare providers when hospital admissions and ICU occupancy increase rapidly. This onboarding checklist ([click here](#)) from the HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response's (ASPR's) Technical, Resources, Assistance Center and Information Exchange (TRACIE) can ensure new employees are compliant with administrative requirements, familiar with the mission and culture of the hospital, and understand expectations.

Federal Update on Remdesivir Allocation

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS/ASPR) has been working with Gilead Sciences, Inc. and state health departments to distribute remdesivir to healthcare providers, focusing on the areas of the country hardest hit by the pandemic. According to an [HHS/ASPR update](#), by today (May 22), approximately 80% of the original donated amount of remdesivir will have been distributed. Less than 10% of the current allotment is being held in reserve in the event "hotspots" emerge in the coming weeks. The federal state-by-state update indicates that Illinois has received 817 cases (40 vials of product per case) through this week. On May 18, Gilead announced an additional donation of 333,160 vials with an expected delivery date in mid to late June. Hospitals will be asked to input data into the TeleTracking database in early June so that HHS can make allocations of the additional donated remdesivir to state health departments in a manner that is consistent with current hospital need.

Chicago Mayor Gives Update on Reopening Plan

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot said this afternoon that the city is on track to move to its own Phase 3, "Cautiously Reopen", in early June, likely before June 10, with outdoor dining at restaurants and coffee

shops, barber shops, hair and nail salons, non-Lakefront park facilities and libraries resuming limited operations. For now, schools, playgrounds, bars, music venues and stadiums will remain closed. The city will release industry-specific reopening guidelines and rules on Monday.

Chicago Fair Workweek Ordinance Provision Delayed Due to COVID-19

On Wednesday (May 20), the Chicago City Council passed an amendment ([O2019-3928](#)) to the Fair Workweek ordinance ([O2019-3928](#)), which delays the private right of action provision (i.e., an employee's right to sue) for an employer's noncompliance with the scheduling requirements until Jan. 1, 2021. This amendment recognized that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many employers cannot accurately predict scheduling. On May 12, Office of Labor Standards (OLS) published the Fair Workweek rules, including Fair Workweek COVID-19 Rules. The rules can be found on the [Department of Law Rules Portal](#).

On June 1, IHA will co-host a webinar for members with OLS Director Andrew Fox during which Director Fox will explain the new rules and answer questions. More details, including how to register for this educational event, will be forthcoming.

CMS COVID Calls for Week of May 25

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) hosts weekly COVID-19 calls for different members of the healthcare community. CMS encourages attendees to register for the webcast prior to the call, as phone lines are limited. Recordings and transcripts of each call are posted on the CMS podcast [page](#). Next week's calls include:

Tuesday, May 26

- COVID-19 Office Hours, 4:00-5:00 p.m. CDT, Dial-In: 833-614-0820; Passcode: 8977438; Webcast [Registration](#).
- Call for Home Health and Hospice, 2:00-2:30 p.m. CDT; Dial-In: 833-614-0820; Passcode: 4666966; Webcast [Registration](#).

Wednesday, May 27

- Call for Nursing Homes, 3:30-4:00 p.m. CDT, Dial-In: 833-614-0820; Passcode: 1243649; Webcast [Registration](#).
- Call for Dialysis Organizations, 4:30-5:00 p.m. CDT; Dial-In: 833-614-0820; Passcode: 6152699; Webcast [Registration](#).

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