



May 26, 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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SUBJECT: IHA COVID-19 Update – May 26, 2020

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

Situational Awareness

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today [announced](#) 1,178 new COVID-19 cases and 39 deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 113,195 in 100 counties, with a total of 4,923 deaths. IDPH says that in the past 24 hours, 17,230 test specimens have been processed, with a positivity rate of 6.8%. The average positivity rate for the last seven days is 9.2%. Statewide COVID-19 hospitalizations in the past 24 hours increased from 3,763 patients to 3,788 patients (about 1,200 fewer patients than six weeks ago). Of that figure, 1,035 patients are in the ICU, with 590 patients on ventilators.

IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike noted for the week ending May 16, IDPH reported 780 COVID-19 deaths, signaling the first week that there have been fewer deaths than the previous week. "I am hopeful that this fact is the beginning of a downward trend," said Ezike. "But of course, that also depends on all of us making sure that we are doing all we can to decrease the transmission of this virus."

Governor Issues Guidelines for Businesses, Workplaces, Child Care to Reopen

As part of his “Restore Illinois” plan to reopen the state, Governor J.B. Pritzker on Sunday released industry-specific guidelines that allow for the safe reopening of businesses. All four regions of the state are on track to move to Phase 3 later this week, allowing the reopening of businesses in: retail, offices, manufacturing, barbershops and salons, summer programs, outdoor recreation activities and bars and restaurants for outdoor dining. Guidelines and toolkits for businesses are on the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) website. In addition to the guidelines, DCEO and IDPH developed a common set of standards all businesses must follow, including the required use of face coverings, social distancing, and informational signage on site.

The Governor has also released guidelines on reopening child care settings in Phases 3 and 4.

Chicago Announces Effort to Expand COVID-19 Contact Tracing

Mayor Lori Lightfoot and the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) this afternoon announced a plan to expand contact tracing for COVID-19 cases. The initiative includes a Request for Proposals (RFP), in which the City has allocated \$56 million in COVID-19 relief funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and IDPH for community organizations to train and certify a 600-person workforce to support contact tracing. The RFP mandates that the lead agency will sub-grant 85% of contact tracing funding to at least 30 neighborhood-based organizations located within, or primarily serving residents of, communities of high economic hardship, many of which have been the most adversely impacted by COVID-19. The neighborhood-based organizations will be responsible for recruiting, hiring and supporting a workforce for an operation with the capacity to trace 4,500 new contacts per day.

SBA Releases Updated PPP Guidance

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has released updated guidance regarding requirements for loan forgiveness under the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The 26-page interim final rule provides additional clarity around what costs and payments may be eligible for forgiveness. Among other provisions, the guidance states that eligible “costs and payments” include: payroll costs (e.g., salary, wages or similar compensation, payments for group health coverage), interest on mortgage obligations, rent and utilities. Additionally, the guidance clarifies that salary and wages to furloughed employees, bonuses and hazard pay qualify as eligible payroll costs.

To address concern that borrowers need additional time and flexibility to spend loan funds, the U.S. House of Representatives will consider bipartisan legislation this week to allow forgiveness for expenses beyond the 8-week covered period and to also eliminate restrictions limiting non-payroll expenses to 25 percent of loan proceeds. The U.S. Senate is expected to take up the measure when it returns.

OIG Announces Audit of CARES Act Distribution

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) announced the first audit of CARES Act Provider Relief Fund. Specifically, the OIG Office of Audit Services will examine the controls HHS had in place while awarding and disbursing \$50 billion in Provider Relief Fund payments to hospitals and other providers. OIG will determine

whether HHS' controls ensured payments were correctly calculated and disbursed to eligible providers. OIG expects to issue the report within fiscal year 2020. More information can be found [here](#). IHA expects future audits to focus on providers' use of funds, as indicated in the CARES Act [Terms and Conditions](#), and urges all providers to continue tracking and documenting their receipt and use of COVID-related funds.

CDC Recommendations for Communities of Faith

On Friday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published guidance to help prevent exposures to COVID-19 in facilities used by communities of faith and to keep their staff and attendees as healthy as possible as they exercise their faith. The CDC says because there are several published reports of COVID-19 outbreaks sparked by large gatherings, both non-religious and religious in nature, the recommendations will help guide faith communities while respecting their fundamental right to gather for worship. [Click here](#) to see CDC's interim guidance and [here](#) to see a CDC statement.

IDPH COVID-19 Situational Update Webinar Wednesday

IDPH will host a COVID-19 Situational Update webinar on Wednesday, May 27 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](#) to register.

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. Recordings and transcripts of each call are posted on the CMS podcast [page](#). This week's calls include:

Wednesday, May 27

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

Thursday, May 28

- Call for Nurses, 2:00-2:30pm CST; Dial-In: 833-614-0820; Passcode: 2988422; [Webcast Registration](#).

Friday, May 29

- Lessons from the Front Lines, 11:30am-1:00pm CST; Dial-In: 877-251-0301; Passcode: 6350189; [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