May 28, 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 28, 2020

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

Situational Awareness
The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced today 1,527 new COVID-19 cases and 104 deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 115,833 in 100 counties, with a total of 5,186 deaths. IDPH says that in the past 24 hours, 25,993 test specimens have been processed, with a positivity rate of 5.9%. The preliminary seven-day statewide positivity from May 21-27 is 8.3%. Statewide COVID-19 hospitalizations in the past 24 hours decreased from 3,826 patients to 3,649. Of that figure, 1,009 patients are in the ICU, with 576 patients on ventilators.

Update on EMResource – Key Metrics for Elective Surgeries and Procedures
On Tuesday (May 26), the Illinois and Chicago Departments of Public Health hosted a webinar outlining updates to the EMResource data tool. The webinar included new definitions, based in part on input from IHA on bed availability and capacity. EMResource is being used to monitor key metrics for Restore Illinois, Remdesivir allocations, daily bed capacity, and bed availability related to IDPH’s Guidance on Elective Surgeries and Procedures.
Under this guidance, hospitals are required to meet ALL three of these data points to perform elective inpatient procedures:

- Hospital availability of adult medical/surgical beds exceeds 20% of operating capacity for adult medical/surgical beds;
- Hospital availability of ICU beds exceeds 20% of operating capacity for ICU beds; and
- Hospital ventilator availability exceeds 20% of total ventilators.

Data in EMResource will be extracted for seven days, with IDPH generating its first report on June 4, 2020. Hospitals that do not meet the specific thresholds will receive notifications from the department on June 5. Facilities that receive notifications must develop and institute an Action Plan to be submitted to IDPH within 48 hours to DPH.HospitalReports@illinois.gov. The plan must outline how the facility plans to meet the thresholds and the measures it is taking to decrease scheduled cases.

Hospitals are urged to make sure their numbers are updated twice a day in EMResource at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. and to have a clear understanding of the importance of the data. An updated EMResource user guide can be found here and in the document library of EMResource. The recording of the May 26 IDPH/CDPH webinar can be found here.

**Hospital Roles Required in EMS Administrative Code and Furloughs**

IDPH issued a SIREN alert (click here) regarding hospital furloughs and required roles for EMS Resource Hospitals, Trauma Centers, Acute Stroke-Ready Hospitals and hospitals participating in the Pediatric Facility Recognition Program. Any changes to the roles and responsibilities listed in the administrative code must be submitted to IDPH for approval.

**Illinois Moving to Phase 3 Reopening Tomorrow**

At his daily press briefing this afternoon, Governor J.B. Pritzker said all regions of the state will move to Phase 3 of his five-phase “Restore Illinois” reopening plan tomorrow. The 28-day tracking period for all four regions will reset tomorrow, meaning the earliest any region can move to Phase 4 is June 26. The metrics to move to the next phase are the same as they were for moving to Phase 3: the percentage of positive tests must remain below 20% and not increase by more than 10 percentage points for 14 days; hospital admissions for COVID-19 must remain flat (not increase) for 28 days; and hospital surge capacity for ICU and medical/surgical beds and ventilators must be at least 14%.

**Chicago Moving to Phase 3 Reopening on June 3**

Mayor Lori Lightfoot and the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) today announced that Chicago is on track to go to Phase 3 of the “Protecting Chicago” framework and begin reopening on Wednesday, June 3. City officials say cautiously reopening in Phase 3 will still require strict physical distancing but allow some industries to start reopening. All Chicago residents should continue to physically distance and wear a face covering; limit non-business, social gatherings to fewer than 10 persons; stay at home if feeling ill or coming into contact with someone with COVID-19; and get a test if developing symptoms. To allow businesses and organizations to prepare for the reopening, on Tuesday, the city released industry-specific guidelines for businesses, employees, and customers as they begin to safely reopen on June 3.
Commission Surveys and Reviews Resume in June
The Joint Commission will begin resuming regular surveys and reviews in June. Account executives will begin to contact organizations due for a survey to assess the impact that the coronavirus pandemic had on their operations and their current state. The Joint Commission is reviewing a variety of factors and criteria for determining where and which organizations will be surveyed, including identifying and then prioritizing low-risk areas in which it can go in safely to survey. The Joint Commission also says the survey process will look somewhat different, as it will need to employ physical distancing practices to ensure the safety of all parties. For more details, see a statement.

COVID-19 Funding Attestation Deadline Extended
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has extended the deadline for healthcare providers to attest to receipt of payments from the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund and accept the terms and conditions. Providers now have 90 days from the date of receipt to attest and accept the terms and conditions or return the funds. Please note that this extension does not impact the June 3 deadline by which providers must submit revenue information to support receiving an additional payment from the Provider Relief Fund’s $50 billion General Distribution.

IDPH Mandates COVID-19 Testing in Long-Term Care Facilities
IDPH has filed emergency rules mandating long-term care facilities comply with infection control practices, including testing all residents and staff for COVID-19. Each long-term care facility will collect specimens and arrange with a laboratory to have them tested. IDPH will provide training and assistance with testing if needed and help identify laboratory services if requested. Each facility will be required to report to public health officials the number of residents and staff tested, and the number of positive, negative, and indeterminate test results. For more information, see IDPH’s press release.

IHA Overview of General Assembly’s Spring 2020 Session
In an extraordinary and unprecedented special session during the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Assembly compressed what is normally a five-month session into four days (May 20-23). Considering the challenging environment and circumstances, this was a successful spring session for the hospital community. Click here to see a detailed overview of the key bills and issues, including several COVID-19 related measures, that IHA worked on during the session on behalf of Illinois hospitals and health systems.

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