May 29, 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 29, 2020

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

Situational Awareness
The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced today 1,622 new COVID-19 cases and 86 deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 117,455 in 101 counties, with a total of 5,270 deaths. IDPH says that in the past 24 hours, 21,796 test specimens have been processed, with a positivity rate of 7.4%. The preliminary seven-day statewide positivity from May 22-28 is 8%. Statewide COVID-19 hospitalizations in the past 24 hours decreased from 3,649 patients to 3,599. Of that figure, 980 patients are in the ICU, with 593 patients on ventilators.

Governor Issues New Executive Order and Disaster Proclamation
At his daily press briefing this afternoon, Governor J.B. Pritzker said he is issuing a new executive order (click here), extending necessary legal mechanisms such as his disaster proclamation for the next 30 days (click here), but lifting the stay-at-home order. He also announced that as the state moves into Phase 3 of his “Restore Illinois” reopening plan today, his daily briefings will be replaced by briefings specifically dedicated to COVID-19, only on an as-
needed basis starting Monday. IDPH will continue to send daily COVID-19 press releases and to update Restore Illinois regional metrics.

**IHA Urges HHS to Provide Funds to High-Impact Areas**

Today, IHA sent a letter to Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar, urging additional provider relief funds appropriated by Congress be directed to hospitals in high-impact areas.

“As the number of COVID-19 cases continues to seriously impact Chicago, Cook County and other areas of the country we request an additional targeted distribution for high-impact areas be made from the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund. Specifically, funding is urgently needed to assist hospitals serving high numbers of Medicaid and uninsured patients, as well as communities of color, which have been disproportionately harmed by the virus. The Chicago Department of Public Health found that as of May 27, African-American and Latino individuals accounted for more than 77 percent of all positive cases and 75 percent of all deaths,” wrote IHA President & CEO A.J. Wilhelmi.

The CARES Act provided $175 billion to the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund to assist providers in preparing for and responding to COVID-19. A previous $12 billion allocation from the fund has been made to providers in high-impact areas who had at least 100 inpatient COVID-19 admissions by April 10.

**PPP Flexibility Act Passes U.S. House**

The U.S. House of Representatives yesterday passed legislation to provide additional flexibility for borrowers who received loans through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act (H.R. 6886) would give borrowers 24 weeks (instead of eight weeks) to spend loan funds, allow them to delay paying payroll taxes, and only require that 60% of loan expenses be spent on payroll costs, rather than 75%, as stipulated in the CARES Act.

A related bill failed to pass the Senate in recent days; however, several reports suggest that the chamber may consider the House-passed bill next week. PPP loans are available to businesses, including hospitals, who meet eligibility criteria, including having 500 or fewer total employees.

**Complimentary Teletherapy Sessions for Frontline Workers**

The Chicago Psychoanalytic Institute, one of the nation’s leading nonprofit organizations in providing psychoanalytic training and therapy via videoconferencing, is offering complimentary teletherapy sessions to frontline workers in Illinois.

Called the Frontline Responders program, the Institute is offering, on a pro bono basis, to treat workers enduring or struggling to deal with the challenges they are experiencing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Frontline workers who email FrontlineWork@ChicagoAnalysis.org or call (312) 897-1405 will be promptly put in touch with an appropriate clinician at no charge.

Up to 8 treatment sessions will be provided through secure HIPPA compliant videoconferencing. This program is available to all COVID-19 frontline workers in Illinois. For more information, see the flyer.
IDPH Issues Voluntary Guidance for Places of Worship

The Illinois Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) on Thursday issued guidance for places of worship and providers of religious services. IDPH says the guidance does not obligate or encourage places of worship to resume in-person activity but strongly recommends that places of worship continue to facilitate remote services, particularly for those who are vulnerable to COVID-19 including older adults and those with co-morbidities.

IDPH notes that even with adherence to physical distancing, multiple different households convening in a congregational setting to worship carries a higher risk for widespread transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19, and may result in increased rates of infection, hospitalization, and death, especially among more vulnerable populations. In particular, the high risk associated with activities such as singing and group recitation can negate the risk-reducing behaviors such as six feet of physical distancing.

Resources on Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention

IDPH and the COVID-19 Equity Team’s Intimate Partner Violence and Child Abuse Prevention Workgroup have compiled a list of available resources (click here). The document will be updated as new information becomes available.

Condition Code DR for Medicaid Institutional Claims for COVID-19

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) has posted a Provider Notice to instruct providers to use Condition Code DR (Disaster Related) to track claims associated with COVID-19 treatment. Condition Code DR must be present for service dates beginning January 27, 2020, on a claim that includes one of the following diagnostic codes:

- B97.29 - Other coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere (for services provided prior to April 1, 2020)
- U07.1 - COVID-19 (for services provided on or after April 1, 2020)
- Z03.818 - Encounter for observation for suspected exposure to other biological agents ruled out; Z11.59 Encounter for screening for other viral diseases
- Z20.828 - Contact with and suspected exposure to other viral communicable diseases

These instructions apply to Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS), Managed Medicaid (HealthChoice Illinois), and Medicare/Medicaid Alignment Initiative (MMAI) plans.

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