



May 4, 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 4, 2020

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

Situational Awareness

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today [announced](#) 2,341 new COVID-19 cases and 46 deaths (the lowest one-day number since April 19). The total number of cases in the state is 63,840 in 97 counties, with a total of 2,662 deaths. IDPH says that in the past 24 hours, 13,834 test specimens have been processed. There are 4,493 COVID-19 hospitalizations, a decrease of 224 over the previous day. Of that figure, 1,232 patients are in ICU beds with 763 patients on ventilators.

In his daily press briefing, Governor J.B. Pritzker discussed a phased-in approach for reopening the state: "We've been thinking about this and working on it for some time now, to make sure that we're going to give people a view into how the phases might work and how many phases there are and what would work in each phase." He said a key factor in that approach, which will be unveiled before May 30, concerns availability of hospital beds, including ICU beds, in healthcare regions of the state to handle spikes in COVID-19 cases.

FDA Issues EUA for COVID-19 Treatment Drug

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Friday [issued an emergency use authorization \(EUA\)](#) for the investigational antiviral drug remdesivir for the treatment of suspected or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in adults and children hospitalized with severe disease. While there is limited information known about the safety and effectiveness of using remdesivir to treat people in the hospital with COVID-19, the investigational drug was shown in a clinical trial to shorten the time to recovery in some patients.

The emergency use authorization allows for remdesivir to be distributed in the U.S. and administered intravenously by health care providers, as appropriate, to treat suspected or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in adults and children hospitalized with severe disease. Severe disease is defined as patients with low blood oxygen levels or needing oxygen therapy or more intensive breathing support such as a mechanical ventilator. For more details, see an FDA [press release](#).

CDC on Discontinuing Isolation for Persons with COVID-19

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has updated its [guidance](#) on Symptom-Based Strategy to Discontinue Isolation for Persons with COVID-19. In the context of community transmission where continued testing is impractical, available evidence at this time indicates that an interim strategy based on time-since-illness-onset and time-since-recovery can be implemented to establish the end of isolation. Practical application of a symptom-based strategy cannot prevent all infections.

Briefs on COVID-19 Funding Help for States

The Kaiser Family Foundation released the following two briefs about the new Medicaid federal provisions developed to help states respond to the COVID-19 pandemic: [Key Questions About the New Increase in Federal Medicaid Matching Funds for COVID-19](#) and [Key Questions About the New Medicaid Eligibility Pathway for Uninsured Coronavirus Testing](#).

IDPH Situation Update Webinar Wednesday

The next IDPH COVID-19 Situation Update weekly webinar takes place Wednesday, May 6 from 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. [Registration](#) is required.

Weekly CMS COVID-19 Stakeholder Engagement Calls

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) hosts several weekly calls. Attendees are encouraged to attend these calls via webcast as phone lines are limited; registration is required for webcast attendance. All call recordings and transcripts are posted on the CMS podcast [page](#). This week's calls include:

Tuesday, May 5:

Home Health and Hospice Site-Specific Call, 2:00-2:30 p.m. CDT. Dial-in: 833-614-0820; Passcode: 7844154; Webcast available [here](#).

CMS COVID-19 Office Hours, 4:00-5:00 p.m. CDT. Dial-in: 833-614-0820; Passcode: 3996146; Webcast available [here](#).

Wednesday, May 6:

Nursing Homes Site-Specific Call, 3:30-4:00 p.m. CDT. Dial-In: 833-614-0820; Passcode: 8899983; Webcast available [here](#).

NIOSH Webinar on Purchasing Respirators from Other Countries Thursday

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is hosting a webinar Thursday, May 7 at 12 p.m. CDT on [Factors to Consider when Planning to Purchase Respirators from Another Country, Including KN95 Respirators from China](#). This webinar will discuss the common pitfalls of purchasing respirators internationally to help buyers make informed procurement decisions to keep their workers safe. More information and registration is available [here](#).

Clinician Well-Being Webinar Thursday

The National Academy of Medicine will hold a Supporting Clinician Well-Being During COVID-19 webinar on Thursday, May 7 from 12:30-2 p.m. CDT. The webinar will provide a timely discussion and platform for physicians, nurses, students, and health system leaders to delve into the critical needs, priorities, and emerging strategies to support the mental and emotional well-being of clinicians on the frontlines—both during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. More details and registration information are available [here](#).

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