



May 5, 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 5, 2020

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

Situational Awareness

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today [announced](#) 2,122 new COVID-19 cases and 176 deaths—the highest number of fatalities reported in a single 24-hour period. The total number of cases in the state is 65,962 in 97 counties, with a total of 2,838 deaths. IDPH says that in the past 24 hours, 13,139 test specimens have been processed. Statewide, the number of COVID-19 hospitalized patients in the past 24 hours increased from 4,493 to 4,780. Of that figure, 1,266 patients are in ICU with 780 patients on ventilators.

Governor Releases “Restore Illinois” Regional Plan to Reopen the State

Today, at his daily press briefing, Governor J.B. Pritzker released [Restore Illinois—A Public Health Approach to Safely Reopen Our State](#), a five-phase plan to reopen the state, where regions could enter different phases of reopening at different times. Guided by public health metrics, the plan divides the state into four major regions based on IDPH EMS regions: Northeast (EMS Regions 7 through 11); North Central (1, 2); Central (3, 6); and Southern (4, 5).

The phases are:

Phase 1 – Rapid Spread: The rate of infection among those tested and the number of patients admitted to the hospital is high or rapidly increasing. Strict stay at home and social distancing guidelines are put

in place and only essential businesses remain open. Every region has experienced this phase once already and could return to it if mitigation efforts are unsuccessful.

Phase 2 – Flattening: (Currently in this phase) The rate of infection among those tested and the number of patients admitted to the hospital beds and ICU beds increases at an ever slower rate, moving toward a flat and even a downward trajectory. Non-essential retail stores reopen for curbside pickup and delivery. Illinoisans are directed to wear a face covering when outside the home, and can begin enjoying additional outdoor activities like golf, boating and fishing while practicing social distancing. To varying degrees, every region is now in this phase, experiencing flattening as of early May.

Phase 3 – Recovery: The rate of infection among those tested, the number of patients admitted to the hospital, and the number of patients needing ICU beds is stable or declining. Manufacturing, offices, retail, barbershops and salons can reopen to the public with capacity and other limits and safety precautions. All gatherings limited to 10 or fewer people are allowed. Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.

Phase 4 – Revitalization: The rate of infection among those tested and the number of patients admitted to the hospital continues to decline. All gatherings of up to 50 people are allowed, restaurants and bars reopen, travel resumes, child care and schools reopen under guidance from IDPH. Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.

Phase 5 – Illinois Restored: With a vaccine or highly effective treatment widely available or the elimination of any new cases over a sustained period, the economy fully reopens with safety precautions continuing. Conventions, festivals and large events are permitted, and all businesses, schools, and places of recreation can open with new safety guidance and procedures in place reflecting the lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the Governor, the earliest a region can move to Phase 3 is May 29. To move to Phase 3, a region must be at or under a 20% test positivity rate and increasing by no more than 10 percentage points over a 14-day period. In addition, a region must maintain the availability of a surge threshold of 14% availability of ICU beds, medical and surgical beds and ventilators. Also, a region must have either maintained an overall stability (no overall increase) in hospital admissions for COVID-19-like illness or not have any overall increase in COVID-19-like illness for 28 days.

Moving to Phase 4 would have the same requirements as Phase 3, but would also require widespread testing to be available, regardless of symptoms or risk factors, and contact tracing would have to be available within 24 hours of diagnosis for 90% of the cases in the region.

If there is a surge in COVID-19 cases and hospital bed capacity becomes compromised, a region would move back a phase with stronger restrictions. For more information, see the [Governor's press release](#) and [Restore Illinois metrics](#) (as of 5/5/20).

AHA Reports on COVID-19 Financial Impact

The American Hospital Association (AHA) today released a new report—[Hospitals and Health Systems Face Unprecedented Financial Pressures Due to COVID-19](#)—confirming the enormous financial strain on hospitals and health systems in the fight against COVID-19. AHA estimates more than \$200 billion in losses resulting from COVID-19 expenses and lost revenue for hospitals and health systems over the four-month period from March 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020 – or an average of over \$50 billion a month.

For this report, the total financial impact on hospitals and health systems includes the costs of COVID-19 hospitalizations, the impact of canceled and foregone services due to COVID-19 on hospital revenue, the additional costs associated with purchasing needed personal protective equipment, and the costs of additional support some hospitals are providing to their workers. For example, some hospitals are providing child care, housing and transportation for their front line caregivers and other employees.

The financial impact estimates in this report do not include other important costs borne by hospitals, such as the increases in drug and labor costs that have resulted from the pandemic. The extent of these increases on hospitals will be better understood as more data becomes available. AHA says it is also important to understand that the report estimates costs through June 30, 2020, and it remains to be seen how quickly life will return to normal across the country in the months to come. Hospitals will likely continue to see lower service use while treating COVID-19 patients beyond June 30, which would result in continued financial pressures.

Project ECHO National COVID-19 Grand Rounds Thursday

Project ECHO will hold a National COVID-19 Grand Rounds for the emergency department on Thursday, May 7 from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. CDT. Registration and connection info can be found [here](#).

Next ILPQC Webinar on COVID-19 Strategies for OB/Neonatal Units Friday

The Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative (ILPQC), in partnership with IDPH, hold a COVID-19 Strategies for OB/Neonatal Units Discussion webinar on Friday, May 8 from 12 to 1 p.m. Register [here](#). Information on upcoming webinars and recordings of previous webinars are available [here](#).

Additional CMS COVID-19 Stakeholder Engagement Calls This Week

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) hosts weekly calls for various stakeholders. Registration is required. All call recordings and transcripts are posted on the CMS podcast [page](#).

Thursday, May 7:

CMS COVID-19 Office Hours, 4-5 p.m. CDT. Dial-in: 833-614-0820; Passcode: 1181167; Webcast available [here](#).

Dialysis Organizations Site-Specific Call, 4:30-5 p.m. CDT. Dial-In: 833-614-0820; Passcode: 8278522; Webcast available [here](#).

Friday, May 8:

Lessons from the Front Lines: COVID-19, 11:30a.m.-1 p.m. CDT. Dial-in: 877-251-0301; Passcode: 9146779; Webcast available [here](#).

Nursing Homes Site-Specific Call, 2-2:30 p.m. CDT. Dial-In: 833-614-0820; Passcode: 5486361; Webcast 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