



May 8, 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 8, 2020

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

Situational Awareness

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today [announced](#) 2,887 new COVID-19 cases and 130 deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 73,760 in 98 counties, with a total of 3,241 deaths. In the past 24 hours, 20,671 test specimens have been processed – the first time the daily total has been above 20,000. Statewide, the number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients decreased from 4,862 to 4,750. Of that figure, 1,222 patients are in the ICU (decrease of 31) with 727 on ventilators (decrease of 39).

Chicago Mayor Releases Framework to Reopen the City

Mayor Lori Lightfoot and the Chicago Department of Public Health today [announced](#) the “Protecting Chicago” framework that will guide the city's reopening process. The framework is organized into five phases in alignment with the state's “Restore Illinois” plan:

- Phase One: Strict Stay-At-Home – Limit the amount of contact with others; goal is to limit interactions to rapidly slow the spread of COVID-19;
- Phase Two: Stay-At-Home (the City is currently in this phase) – Guard against unsafe interactions with others; goal is to continue flattening the curve while safely being outside;
- Phase Three: Cautiously Reopen – Strict physical distancing with some businesses opening; goal is to thoughtfully begin to reopen Chicago safely;
- Phase Four: Gradually Resume – Continued staggered reopening into a new normal; goal is to further reopen Chicago while ensuring the safety of residents; and

- Phase Five: Protect – Continue to protect vulnerable populations; goal is to continue to maintain safety until COVID-19 is contained

A set of epidemiological factors has been established to guide the next transition from Phase Two to Phase Three, including:

- COVID-19 Case Rate (over 14 days, as a rolling average):
 - Declining rate of new cases, based on incidence and/or percent positivity
- Severe Outcome Rate (over 14 days, as a rolling average):
 - Stable or declining rates of cases resulting in hospitalization, ICU admission, and/or death
- Hospital Capacity Citywide (over 14 days, as a rolling average):
 - Hospital beds: <1800 COVID patients
 - ICU beds: <600 COVID patients
 - Ventilators: <450 COVID patients
- Testing Capacity:
 - Test at least 5% of Chicago residents per month
- Testing Percent Positivity Rates (over 14 days, as a rolling average):
 - Congregate: <30% positive tests
 - Community: <15% positive tests
- Syndromic Surveillance (over 14 days, as a rolling average):
 - Declining emergency department visits for influenza-like illness and/or COVID-like illness
- Case Investigation & Contact Tracing:
 - Expanded system in place for congregate and community investigations and contact tracing

The specific health criteria for transition between the latter phases will be established and released over the coming weeks to ensure the City is open and responsive to new data and information as it arises.

IHA Board Meets on Key Issues for Hospital Community

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the IHA Board of Trustees is meeting via teleconference to focus on issues of critical concern to the hospital community. At a meeting this morning, the Board had extensive discussions concerning the Hospital Assessment Program; health disparities in communities of color; COVID-19; and IHA's advocacy to hold Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) accountable.

The Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) is proceeding with its efforts to gain federal approval of a state plan amendment for Phase 2 of the assessment program to go into effect July 1. At the same time, IHA is working with HFS and the Legislative Medicaid Work Group on legislation authorizing the program that will be enacted when the General Assembly reconvenes this spring. IHA is working to ensure that the legislation includes protections for hospitals and health systems on various payments and taxes in the program as well as preserving maintenance of effort by the state.

The Board discussed the critical need for IHA to develop concrete plans, including the possibility of establishing a permanent standing committee on the Board or a member task force, to address long-standing health and healthcare disparities in communities of color in Illinois that have been exacerbated during the COVID-19 crisis. The Board will further discuss this issue at its July meeting.

The IHA Board also reviewed the latest COVID-19 developments affecting the hospital community, including challenges with testing and testing supplies, resumption of non-urgent elective surgeries and procedures, liability protection, and funding relief and support at the state and federal levels. IHA continues to advocate for additional federal funding for hospitals with the Illinois Congressional Delegation, and will be seeking help for hospitals from the General Assembly.

IHA is also continuing to press for Medicaid managed care accountability and transparency on claims and payments and to push HFS to implement key provisions of reform legislation enacted last August that have been delayed, such as reimbursement for inpatient stays beyond medical necessity and a claims submission pipeline to strengthen HFS' oversight of MCOs and its ability to resolve disputes.

Chicago Hotels to House Nursing Home Workers on Frontlines of COVID-19 Pandemic

Chicago Mayor Lightfoot on Thursday [announced new partnerships](#) with Hotel Julian, The Godfrey Hotel and London House to provide nursing home workers in the city with a safe space to isolate themselves if they get sick or need temporary respite as they work on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

FEMA Training Webinars Next Week

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has announced the schedule of Critical Training webinars on the required usage of FEMA's Grant Portal Training, and the new streamlined application process that FEMA is implementing for COVID-19. These webinars will be held next week, May 11-15. Information about times and how to attend can be found [here](#). The Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) continues to work on developing applicant briefings and indicates these webinars will serve as introductions into the public assistance program. More information can be found in IHA's [Federal Funding Opportunities Resource Document](#) and IEMA's Public Assistance COVID-19 [webpage](#).

COVID-19 in Correctional and Detention Facilities

A new [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates among 37 jurisdictions reporting, 32 (86%) reported at least one confirmed COVID-19 case among incarcerated or detained persons or staff members, across 420 correctional and detention facilities. As of April 21, the report says 4,893 cases and 88 deaths among incarcerated and detained persons and 2,778 cases and 15 deaths among staff members have been reported.

Updated HRSA Uninsured Program FAQs and Fact Sheet

The Health Resource and Services Administration (HRSA) released updated [FAQs](#) for the COVID-19 Uninsured Program, and IHA updated its [fact sheet](#) about the program. HRSA began accepting patient information and claims electronically on May 6. Reimbursement will begin in mid-May. More information on eligibility and claims submission can be found on HRSA's [website](#).

Updated IHA Legal Resources on COVID-19

IHA has updated its [COVID-19 Legal Resources](#) document that provides an extensive overview of federal, state, local and issue-specific resources related to COVID-19.

Massive Job Losses in April Due to COVID-19

Today, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) released the [April employment report](#) showing the nation's unemployment rate rising to 14.7%, up from 4.4% in March, with a total of 20.5 million jobs lost during the month. Hospital employment in April declined by about 135,000 jobs. Overall healthcare employment declined by 1.4 million jobs, with the largest losses occurring in dentist offices (-503,000), physician offices (-243,000), and other healthcare practitioner offices (-205,000).

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-ih.org