



September 16, 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 – September 16, 2020**

Following is a brief recap of the most recent top developments.

**Situational Awareness**

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced today 1,941 new COVID-19 cases and 35 deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 266,151 in 102 counties, with a total of 8,367 deaths. IDPH says that in the past 24 hours, 52,311 test specimens have been processed, with a positivity rate of 3.7%. The preliminary seven-day statewide positivity rate from September 9 to September 15 is 3.7%. Statewide COVID-19 hospitalizations in the past 24 hours decreased from 1,584 patients to 1,565 patients. Of that figure, 373 patients were in the ICU, with 143 patients on ventilators.

**HHS/DOD Release COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Strategy**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Department of Defense (DoD) today released two documents outlining the Trump Administration's strategy to deliver safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine doses as quickly and reliably as possible. The documents -- Strategy for Distributing a COVID-19 Vaccine and COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook -- provide a strategic distribution overview along with information for state, tribal, territorial, and local public health programs and their partners on how to plan and operationalize a vaccination response to COVID-19 within their respective jurisdictions.

The overview lays out four tasks for the COVID-19 vaccine program:

- Engage with state, tribal, territorial, and local partners, other stakeholders, and the public to communicate public health information around the vaccine and promote vaccine confidence and uptake.
- Distribute vaccines immediately upon granting of Emergency Use Authorization/ Biologics License Application, using a transparently developed, phased allocation methodology and CDC has made vaccine recommendations.
- Ensure safe administration of the vaccine and availability of administration supplies.
- Monitor necessary data from the vaccination program through an information technology system capable of supporting and tracking distribution, administration, and other necessary data.

HHS also released an [infographic](#) describing the COVID-19 vaccine distribution process.

### **New CDC Report on Young People and COVID-19**

A new [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates that COVID-19 has killed at least 121 people under 21 years old across the U.S., more than three-quarters of whom were Black, Hispanic and American Indian/Alaskan Native people. The study researchers, from the CDC and nearly 30 state health departments (including Illinois), found among the COVID-19-associated deaths among persons under age 21 years reported to the CDC by July 31, 2020, 12 (10%) were infants and 85 (70%) were aged 10–20 years. Hispanic, Black and American Indian/Alaskan Native persons accounted for 94 (78%) of these deaths; 33% of deaths occurred outside a hospital. The researchers say that persons under 21 exposed to COVID-19 should be monitored for complications and that ongoing surveillance for COVID-19-associated infection, hospitalization, and death among persons under 21 should continue as schools reopen.

### **CDC on Hospitalized Pregnant Women with COVID-19**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention today issued two new Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports on hospitalized pregnant women with COVID-19. [One of the reports](#) found that among nearly 600 hospitalized pregnant women with COVID-19, 55% were asymptomatic at admission. Severe illness occurred among symptomatic pregnant women, including ICU admissions (16%), mechanical ventilation (8%), and death (1%). Pregnancy losses occurred for 2% of pregnancies completed during COVID-19-associated hospitalizations and were experienced by both symptomatic and asymptomatic women. The report authors say that pregnant women and healthcare providers should be aware of potential risks for severe COVID-19, including adverse pregnancy outcomes.

The [other report](#) found that prevalence of pre-pregnancy obesity and gestational diabetes were higher among pregnant women hospitalized for COVID-19–related illness (e.g., worsening respiratory status) than among those admitted for pregnancy-related treatment or procedures (e.g., delivery) and found to have COVID-19. Intensive care was required for 30% (13 of 43) of pregnant women admitted for COVID-19, and one pregnant woman died from COVID-19. The report authors say prenatal counseling emphasizing preventive measures, including use of masks, frequent hand washing, and social distancing, might help prevent COVID-19 among pregnant women, especially those with pre-pregnancy obesity and gestational diabetes.

### **Chicago Updates Emergency Travel Order**

On Tuesday, Chicago health officials updated the city's [emergency travel order](#), adding Utah and removing Florida, Idaho, North Carolina, Texas, Hawaii and Nevada. Health officials also warned against

traveling to Wisconsin but did not add the state to the list, saying the city recognizes people need time for planning. Wisconsin will be added to the order next week if it does not bring down its daily case average. The order directs travelers entering or returning to Chicago from states experiencing a surge in new COVID-19 cases to quarantine for a 14-day period from the time of last contact within the identified state.

### **New Resource for School Decision-Making during Pandemic**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released a new resource, *Indicators for Dynamic School Decision-Making*, to help schools make decisions about in-person learning as local conditions evolve throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The resource includes core and secondary indicators to help local officials and school districts assess their risk for COVID-19 introductions into and spread within their schools. The CDC says when coupled with local data about community spread, these indicators are an important tool to help local health officials, school administrators, and communities prepare, plan, and respond to COVID-19.

### **Symposium on COVID-19 and Racial/Ethnic Minority Communities**

On Thursday, September 17, at 11 a.m. CDT, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health (OMH) is hosting *Advancing the Response to COVID-19: Sharing Promising Programs and Practices for Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities*, a virtual symposium highlighting state, tribal, territorial and community-based efforts to address COVID-19 among racial and ethnic minority and American Indian and Alaska Native populations.

The symposium will disseminate promising practices, programs and strategies for combating COVID-19 in communities that have suffered historic systemic health and social inequities. These inequities put racial and ethnic minority groups at elevated risk of contracting COVID-19 or experiencing severe illness. For more information and to register, go to the [OMH website](#).

### **CDC COCA Call on Influenza during COVID-19 Pandemic**

A CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) call on "*Testing and Treatment of 2020-2021 Seasonal Influenza During the COVID-19 Pandemic*" will be held Thursday, September 17 at 1 p.m. CDT. During this COCA call, clinicians will hear an overview of CDC's recommendations for health care providers regarding influenza diagnostics and the use of antiviral medications for the 2020-2021 influenza season, including considerations during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Webinar Link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1604984692>external icon

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iPhone one-tap: +16692545252,,1604984692# or +16468287666,,1604984692#

Webinar ID: 160 498 4692

### **Resources**

- [IDPH COVID-19 webpage](#) and [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](mailto:tnuding@team-ih.org)