



April 25, 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: Follow Up Re: IDPH Guidance on Elective Surgeries and Procedures**

Last night, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) issued guidance on the criteria under which hospitals and ASTCs may begin to perform elective surgeries and procedures, beginning May 11, 2020. See the guidance [here](#).

As we reported to you earlier this week, IHA engaged in intense discussions with the Pritzker administration and IDPH over many days, urging the administration and IDPH to allow postponed elective surgeries and procedures to resume. As part of our advocacy on your behalf, IHA initiated two conference calls with the administration so hospital leaders from across the state could provide the hospital community's input on this critical issue. In addition, IHA's Executive Committee held special calls to develop recommendations that we submitted to IDPH.

As a result of these discussions, hospital community input and IHA recommendations to IDPH, we were able to persuade the administration and IDPH not to impose more prescriptive pre-conditions and to provide flexibility to hospitals and health systems to make medical decisions that are in the best interests of patients, within reasonable parameters.

In particular, IHA was able to successfully advocate for the removal of the gating requirements, increase the period for testing to 72 hours, entirely eliminate any list of allowed and disallowed surgeries and procedures, and overall reduce the number of originally proposed regulatory and burdensome

requirements that we believed were unnecessary barriers to ensuring the primary objective of the department, which is to provide adequate surge capacity.

IHA also secured a commitment from IDPH to assist small and rural hospitals in sourcing and obtaining testing supplies. Requests for testing supplies can be submitted to IDPH using the following form (scroll down the form to fill out the COVID-19 section):

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/23f8f4130df043568f2e92169b8cda40>

For additional support from IDPH on obtaining testing supplies, contact Brandy Love at [brandy.lane@illinois.gov](mailto:brandy.lane@illinois.gov). Members are also urged to contact Abby Radcliffe at IHA, at [aradcliffe@team-iha.org](mailto:aradcliffe@team-iha.org) or 217-541-1178, to make us aware of any issues in obtaining assistance from IDPH.

As Illinois enters the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, the new IDPH guidance, though not perfect, will assist healthcare providers in appropriately addressing the pent-up patient demand for non-emergent surgical and procedural care in Illinois. This new guidance attempts to reasonably balance the state's public health goals of preventing the spread of COVID-19 and decreasing mortality rates with the goal of ensuring patients get the surgeries and procedures they need for their personal health and well-being.

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](mailto:tnuding@team-iha.org).