Chicago Moving to Phase 3 as Scheduled
Mayor Lori Lightfoot announced this morning that the city is moving to Phase 3 of its reopening plan and lifting the local stay-at-home order on Wednesday as originally scheduled, despite the events of the past few days. Lightfoot said she made the decision after meeting with local businesses and chambers of commerce and touring local sites that have been damaged.

Chicago Public Health Commissioner Dr. Allison Arwady said the city has met all public health metrics to move to Phase 3, including declining COVID-19 hospitalizations, a steady decline in new cases and a positivity rate below 15%. But she also noted that the city will surpass more than 50,000 COVID-19 cases within the next few weeks, and she urged Chicagoans who have been at large gatherings recently, including protests, to self quarantine and stay away from people older than 60 and others who have underlying medical conditions.

CMS Steps Up Nursing Home COVID-19 Enforcement
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on Monday announced steps it is taking to enhance enforcement for nursing homes with violations of longstanding infection control practices. CMS says it is increasing enforcement (e.g., civil money penalties) for facilities with persistent infection control violations, and imposing enforcement actions on lower level infection control deficiencies.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provided additional funding to CMS for survey and certification work related to COVID-19. CMS will allocate the CARES Act funding to states based on performance-based metrics. States that have not completed 100% of focused infection control surveys of their nursing homes by July 31, 2020 will be required to submit a corrective action plan within 30 days. If, after the 30-day period, states have still not performed surveys in 100% of nursing homes, their CARES Act fiscal year 2021 allocation may be reduced by 10%.

As of May 24, about 12,500 nursing homes – approximately 80% of the 15,400 Medicare and Medicaid nursing homes – had reported the required data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These facilities reported over 60,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases and almost 26,000 deaths. Of the nursing homes that reported data, approximately one in four facilities had at least one COVID-19 case, and approximately one in five facilities had at least one COVID-19 related death. CMS will post the underlying CDC-collected data on a link on Nursing Home Compare later this week, broken down by state, number of residents and number of staff, and searchable by facility name.

As of May 29, the Illinois Dept. of Public Health had reported that more than half of the state’s COVID-19 deaths (2,747) were in nursing homes and long-term care facilities.
Occupational Mix Survey Update
Every three years, hospitals are asked to complete an Occupational Mix Survey and submit it to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Hospitals are required to submit the Survey this year, and CMS has extended the 2019 Survey submission date to Aug. 3, 2020.

IHA has prepared a Survey Fact Sheet that includes information about which hospitals are obligated to complete the survey, allowable salaries and hours, and additional information to consider while completing the survey. For detailed information, go to CMS' Survey website.

IHA Webinar on COVID-19 Funding Reporting
IHA is hosting a webinar on Thursday, June 11, from 10 to 11 a.m. with Health Management Associates (HMA) to assist member hospitals and health systems with coronavirus response funding reporting requirements, which begin with the quarter ending June 30. To register, click here.

The webinar will review the Terms and Conditions associated with the main sources of coronavirus response funding, provide guidance on COVID-19 related expenses and lost revenue projections, and discuss best practices related to the quarterly reporting process. The webinar will be recorded if you are unable to join.

IDPH COVID-19 Webinars This Week
IDPH will host a COVID-19 Situational Update webinar on Wednesday, June 2, from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., to provide the latest information on the coronavirus disease outbreak and Illinois preparedness efforts. Register here.

IDPH will hold a webinar on Thursday, June 4, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., on its current data partners at BioSpatial. This platform creates data-driven, actionable insight from timely, health-related data to improve patient care, enhance population health and safety, and decrease healthcare costs. The platform provides users a cloud-based secure platform to visualize nearly real-time data and analytics about EMS in Illinois. Register here.

CMS COVID-19 Stakeholder Calls
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) hosts several COVID-19 stakeholder calls each week. Participants are encouraged to register for the audio webcast, as call-in lines are limited. Call recordings and transcripts can be found on the CMS podcast page. This week’s calls include:

- Today (June 2): CMS COVID-19 Office Hours; 4:00-5:00pm CDT; Call-in: 833-614-0620; Passcode: 4474407; Webcast Link.
- Friday, June 5: Lessons from the Front Line: COVID-19; 11:30am-1:00pm CDT; Call-in: 833-614-0620; Passcode: 6583696; Webcast Link.

ECHO COVID-19 Sessions in June
The Extension for Community Health Organization (ECHO) will hold several special COVID-19 sessions in June. The sessions, with case presentations, include:

- COVID-19 in Pediatrics special ECHO sessions are scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, 16 and 30 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. CDT. Registration is required. Register at COVID-19 in Pediatrics. Space is limited.
- COVID-19 in Adults sessions will continue on alternate weeks and are scheduled for Wednesday, June 10 and 24 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. CDT. Registration is required. Register at COVID-19 in Adults. Space is limited.

The sessions are open to all providers, and you do not need to be a past ECHO participant to attend. The ECHO-Chicago team continuously posts new information to the ECHO-Chicago webpage devoted to COVID-19.

June 8 Data Deadline re: Remdesivir Distribution
For the next distribution of Remdesivir, the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS) is requesting that hospitals submit data by 7 p.m. CDT, Monday, June 8. Hospitals should log on to the COVID-19 web portal at https://teletracking.protect.hhs.gov, using the same login information previously used to provide year-to-date coronavirus-related admissions. Once logged in, you will be asked to provide: the number of currently hospitalized coronavirus patients, and of those admissions, the number in an intensive care unit. Hospitals should record these values as of June 1, or the date they are submitting, prior to the June 8 deadline.

For more information, see HHS’ updated letter and FAQ.

State, National, Global COVID-19 Update
The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced today 1,614 new COVID-19 cases and 113 deaths. The total number of cases in the state is 122,848 in 101 counties, with a total of 5,525 deaths. IDPH says that in the past 24 hours, 16,431 test specimens have been processed, with a positivity rate of 9.8%. The preliminary seven-day statewide positivity from May 26-June 1 is 7%. Statewide COVID-19 hospitalizations in the past 24 hours increased from 3,215 patients to 3,238 patients. Of that figure, 874 patients are in the ICU, with 548 patients on ventilators.

Current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) figures show more than 1.8 million confirmed and presumptive positive cases of COVID-19 in the U.S., with 105,157 deaths.

Today’s WHO Situation Report shows nearly 6.2 million COVID-19 cases globally, with more than 376,000 deaths. The Region of the Americas (includes the U.S.) continues to lead the world with more than 2.9 million cases and over 163,000 deaths.

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